

Fewer fires help troops to minimize strike effects

Fewer fires than usual were reported by the public yesterday, the first day of Britain's first national strike by firemen. Support for the action among the 43,000 members of the Fire Brigades Union was almost complete, but a reduction in the number of fires helped the

10,000 specially trained fire-fighters from the Armed Forces to cope. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute were adjourned after two hours, but they will be resumed today. An emergency debate on the strike will be held in the Commons today.

Talks stalled: Debate in the Commons today

By Martin Huckerby

Britain yesterday survived without a serious incident its first day in modern history without a proper fire service. Last night the temporary firemen from the Armed Forces appeared to be coping successfully. Fewer fires than usual were reported by the public. Support for the strike among the 43,000 members of the Fire Brigades Union was almost complete. Only in a few rural areas did enough men remain at work to add appreciably to the cover provided by part-time firemen and by the 10,000 specially trained Servicemen.

There was no sign of any rift in the dispute: talks between the union and local authority representatives were adjourned after two hours, and little progress appeared to have been made. Later today there will be a three-hour emergency debate in the Commons about the strike.

So far the worst fears about the possible effects of the strike have not been realized. No deaths were reported. The worst injury during the day was to a woman aged 84, who was badly burnt in a fire near Chesterfield.

There was a big fire at a large scrapyard at Brownhills, Staffordshire, where eight army fire crews were in action. But in no case was an outbreak beyond the control of the Servicemen and the fairly limited equipment at their disposal.

The 700 Civil Defence appliances known as "Green Goddesses" are lacking in long ladders, and the dangers that might present in tower blocks was illustrated in a fire in a fifth-floor flat in Birmingham. Homes roped together had to be hoisted up to reach the fire. Two members of 29 Commando Regiment were given oxygen after being affected by smoke.

Another big fire was in a furniture store in the centre of Leicester. Army fire-fighters with three Green Goddesses took more than an hour and a half to control the fire. Damage estimated at £10,000 was caused, but the police praised the troops for doing "a fantastic job".

The Servicemen were helped by an apparent reduction in the usual number of fires, although many hoax calls were reported. Government advertisements have been urging people to take precautions at home and work. Cooperative action by neighbours, such as a bucket chain formed to put out a fire at Eiland, near Halifax, has helped in handling smaller fires.

Police, who have been checking alarm calls before the Servicemen are called out, have often been able to quell small fires with extinguishers from their patrol cars.

The Fire Brigades Union said yesterday that about 98 per cent of its members were on strike in a few counties such as Hampshire and Sussex, many stayed at work, and in one or two areas, such as Cornwall, the many part-timers were able to provide almost full cover.

There were some cases of threats against firemen who crossed picket lines and threats from the public against those who had gone on strike.

However, Mr Gordon Newson, assistant general secretary of the Reinforced Firemen's Union, which represents part-time firemen, complained angrily about "saboteurs" who had tampered with their appliances.

In many cases firemen took keys from appliances and locked station doors as they walked out to prevent anyone from



A soldier receiving oxygen after being overcome by smoke at a Birmingham fire yesterday.

using them. There were also reports of strikers following senior officers to fires to ensure that the senior men only advised the troops on how to tackle the blazes and did not take part in the work.

Among the high-risk fire areas, Glasgow escaped fairly lightly. Troops successfully tackled a fire in a paper factory and authorities in Strathclyde reported fewer outbreaks than usual.

The dispute was not without its lighter side. At Abingdon, Oxfordshire, the picket line interrupted their strike to save the public house opposite their station.

A warning of the grimmer aspects of the strike came in Edinburgh from Mr. Ewing, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, who said that buildings might have to be left to burn out if lives were not in danger.

When asked what the union would do if anyone died in a fire, a Fire Brigades Union official said: "If we lose a couple of people it does not mean that if the fire services had been working at full order they would still not have died."

Christopher Walker, writes from Belfast: Years of a concerted Provisional IRA fire-bombing campaign to coincide with the firemen's strike were not realized during daylight hours yesterday. But evening rush-hour strikes in east Belfast were diverted as army experts inspected a suspected bomb. Earlier two incendiary devices had been planted, both in provin-

cial towns, but neither caused damage. Arson charge: A man will appear before Birmingham magistrates today charged with arson after a fire at a city tower block which started just before the strike (see Press Association reports).

Thirty people were led to safety and four, including a pregnant woman and a man who suffered a heart attack, were taken to hospital.

The fire, at the 16-storey Medway Tower in Cromwell Street, Newcastle, was put out by firemen using breathing apparatus.

All 21 members of the Fire Brigades Union at the part-time station at Teignmouth, Devon, resigned from the union.

Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees have been advised not to tackle big hospital fires during the strike.

Mr. Albert Spenswick, the union's general secretary, said: "Cohesive members should give priority to evacuating patients and should attempt to deal only with the kind of minor fires which they would deal with in normal circumstances."

Our Labour Editor writes: Discussions in quest of a long-term solution to firemen's pay grievances were adjourned after two hours on the first day of the men's official strike yesterday.

The talks, between leaders of the Fire Brigades Union and the local authority employers, which are regarded by ministers as the only politically acceptable way out of the

crisis, will be resumed today. The rudiments of a formula giving firemen a special position in the pay league may be available for joint talks tomorrow.

The question remaining is whether the union executive, meeting on Thursday, will regard the outcome of the talks as sufficient to recall the firemen's delegate conference, which alone can call off the strike.

The employers were not optimistic after talks with Mr. Terence Parry, general secretary of the FBU. But a spokesman of the local authorities said: "I am not going to say there will be a magic solution on Wednesday. But this is the basis for a settlement, taking into account a reduction of the working week and settling the firemen's true position in the wages structure."

The TUC has shown no sign of intervening in an official dispute that breaks no congress policy.

Mr. Parry has kept Mr. Len Murray, general secretary, informed, and yesterday Mr. Murray cancelled his departure on an official TUC delegation to Algeria, but he may leave today.

The firemen's strike puts the TUC in an acute political dilemma: support of the stoppage would be construed as opposition to Government's incomes policy, which would encourage other groups of workers to "try it on".

More Belfast news and photograph, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 10

Old lines of battle on devolution reappear

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

As the expected marathon on the devolution Bills for Scotland and Wales opened in the Commons yesterday with the second reading of the Scotland Bill, there were few signs of any change from the old battle lines established in the same cause during the previous session of Parliament.

The Conservative proposal to reject the Scotland Bill and set up a constitutional conference was defeated by 313 votes to 265—Government majority 48.

A few minutes after Mr. Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, had risen to support the Bill (to be swiftly followed today by its sister measure, the Wales Bill) represented a major constitutional change, the Government could have been under no illusion about the troubled waters into which it was sailing.

Already on the order paper was an amendment from that unwavering opponent of devolution Mr. Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, demanding a referendum for Scotland. That was not accepted by the Speaker, but Mr. Abse will return with his proposal during later stages of the Bill.

From the Conservative benches opposition to devolution seemed to have consolidated behind the call from Mr. Francis Pym, leading for his party, that all ideas for separate assemblies should be scrapped until there had been a constitutional conference.

Nor could the Government gain much comfort from its own benches. As with the ill-fated Scotland and Wales Bill of the previous session, there were so many divergent views and so many ramifications that no one with the possible exception of the Secretary of State and Mr. Michael Foot, Leader of the House, could have been detected from whistling support.

As Mr. Alfred Evans, Labour MP for Carmarthen, pointed out, Mr. Millan showed the same enthusiasm for the Scotland and Wales Bill, yet the Government now admitted that it had had many faults.

From all sides Mr. Millan found himself besieged. Mr. Abse, Mr. George Cunningham, Mr. Eric Heffer and Mr. John Mendelson, among others, pressed the case for a referendum, while Mr. Millan's own spokesman, Mr. John Mendelson, asserted that the four guiding principles behind the measure remained sacrosanct: respect for diversity and the devolution of powers to Scotland and Wales, conservation of the economic and political union of the United Kingdom, the continuing and unimpeded sovereignty of Parliament, and fairness to the whole of the United Kingdom.

But while Mr. Millan contended that the issue had been before the country for at least 50 years, Mr. Pym maintained that the question of devolution had been badly thought out and that no single view had gained majority support.

Mr. Millan said Parliament was being presented with a historic opportunity to make a constitutional advance that it could not afford to let slip. The proposed reform would strengthen the union of the United Kingdom; failure to reach a decision could weaken that unity.

Psychological warfare, page 4
Parliamentary report, page 10
When energy runs out, page 21

Britain's third monthly trade surplus gives best figures since 1971

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain achieved its third consecutive monthly trade surplus during October and had the best performance on the overseas trade accounts in any three-month period since early 1971.

A variety of special factors actually caused a drop in the trade surplus last month, to £12m, from the September level of £18m. But, the addition of the usual surpluses on invisibles trade in services, profits from abroad and some government transactions—means that the country was in the black on the overall current account to the sum of £255m last month, against £255m in September.

Taking the first 10 months of 1977, Britain has exactly broken even on current account, and seems certain to end up this year in surplus. It will be the first year since 1972, during the early stages of the last economic boom, that the country has enjoyed a surplus on its current account.

Unless there is a sudden and unexpected deterioration in the trade accounts during November and December, the surplus for 1977—seems likely to be close to the Treasury forecast of about £250m.

This would be a big improvement on recent years. The

deficit on the current account in 1976 was £1,405m, which was itself an improvement from the £3,565m deficit during 1974 in the wake of the quadrupling of world oil prices.

However, the underlying trends for exports and imports are not as comforting as the overall figures suggest. In particular, imports remain stubbornly high, given the depressed level of output.

Government economists were last year attempting to explain the high level of imports as pre-emptive stockpiling, prompted by fears of import controls. But it is becoming harder to resist the conclusion that import propensities have risen sharply.

Indeed, imports are now officially expected to rise by about 11 per cent between the second half of 1977 and the second half of 1978, with much of this increase stemming directly from the boost delivered to the economy by Mr. Healey, the Chancellor, at the end of last month.

By contrast, exports are expected to increase by only about 6 per cent over the same period.

This means that Britain's

Continued, page 19, col 1

CBI split over pay reform plan

From Malcolm Brown
Brighton

Industrial leaders are to press for a complete reform of the pay bargaining system. Mr. John Macken, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, received a mandate from delegates to the CBI's first national conference, at Brighton, yesterday to seek talks with the Government and the TUC aimed at reaching early agreement on the shape the new system would take.

But delegates who had throughout the day been backing resolutions with near unanimous approval, were clearly split over pay bargaining and the majority in favour of the motion was much smaller than the CBI leadership must have hoped for.

That means that the confederation will have to take the issue back to its grand council and probably rewrite sections of its own proposals to take into account the vociferously expressed fears of many of the speakers.

The system the CBI leadership was proposing would involve setting up machinery to decide what the nation can afford to pay itself, accompanied by a much shorter pay round, probably linked closely to the budget, and an attempt to get closer synchronisation of pay settlements.

The proposal for a body to decide what the nation could afford drew strong protests from several speakers, who protested that it would deteriorate into yet another system of pay controls.

Mr. George Cattell, director-general of the National Farmers' Union, said that "what the nation can afford" would soon

Continued on page 4, col 4

Callaghan call for EEC changes

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

It is a pretence and a disservice to the European Economic Community to suggest that all is going well, Mr. Callaghan, the Prime Minister, told politicians and businessmen last night at the Lord Mayor's banquet.

He agreed that all the member states were more fully aware of the extent to which developed industrial societies shared common problems and understood that policies should be devised as far as possible to solve them.

Summing up the present position, Mr. Callaghan said: "We will not try to change the concept of a common system, but we do wish to change the features which produce unbalanced and unwanted surpluses at great cost."

Our task, as committed members of the EEC, is to contribute to the means of resolving them in a manner which takes full account of our differences but is also forward-looking and constructive.

In this spirit, we do not believe that the Community can develop into a federation. Our view is that Europe will make most progress if the rights of national governments and parliaments are upheld.

In spite of his reservations, Mr. Callaghan said, Britain was committed to working for a successful and cohesive Community. The future of the Community is an emotive subject and to utter anything other than the conventional wisdom is regarded by some people as being as bad as shouting in church.

"But it is a disservice to the Community, to pretend that things are what they obviously are not."

Full report, page 6

Less spent on food despite much advertising

By Hugh Clayton

The amount of food eaten at home by British families is falling despite lavish advertising by some of the largest companies.

The National Food Survey showed yesterday that the amount of family spending devoted to food had decreased since 1970 and that the weight eaten of many traditional foods had dropped sharply.

The trend was so marked that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated that individual consumption of bread was lower than ever before.

The country is still very far from starvation, however. People in the United Kingdom still tend to be too fat. The tendency to eat less has been masked since 1970 by furious debate about health in the diet and the virtues of fresh and organic as opposed to processed and technological foods.

The survey, drawn from 7,000 households, shows that while there has been greater consumption of supposedly healthier foods, the increase has been very small and confined mainly to wealthier families. Despite frequent criticisms of the large wrapped loaf, it provides 32 of every 100 slices of bread eaten in this country, while brown bread accounts for about 12.

The survey shows that the domestic freezer is by far the most important instrument for change in the diet of the 1970s. Its use by more than a quarter of British families helps to account for a large increase in sales of frozen foods of from 1970 to 1976.

The number of children in a family was found greatly to affect the quality of its diet, irrespective of its income.

Changes in the national diet are shown in the table:

(ave consumption, 0.25 lb head, week)	1970	1974	1976
Cheese	5.5	9.7	9.8
Beef	7.7	7.4	7.8
Eggs	16.7	13.0	12.2
Sugar	16.7	13.0	12.2
Fresh potatoes	51.0	45.7	55.3
Frozen chips	n/a	0.5	0.8
Bread: large	100	111	111
Wholemeal, sliced	20.1	18.9	17.9
Bread: wholemeal and wholemeal 0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Index of consumption (1970=100)	100	111	111
Index of household spending on food (1970=100)	100	100	101

Source: National Food Survey

Tax officers withdraw rebate threat

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Tax officers last night withdrew a threat not to handle tax rebates resulting from the Chancellor's latest measures. Nearly all taxpayers should therefore have the money in time for Christmas.

After a meeting of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation's national executive Mr. Anthony Christopher, the general secretary, said it would have been wrong to stand in the way of the Chancellor's measures. The decision would be reviewed in January.

But the union, which has been seeking extra money for "budget fatigue", will back overtime and put emphasis on "accuracy rather than output".

Plea for government aid after £1m storm damage

By Staff Reporters

Three Lancashire councils yesterday appeal to the government for aid after storm damage had been estimated at £1m. Weather forecasters offered little hope of an early end to the gales.

Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde district councils made their plea in telegrams to the Prime Minister and the Department of the Environment, after widespread flooding of coastal areas.

The London Weather Centre said last night that an unusually deep depression that had moved south-east from Iceland would continue, and that strong wind would be accompanied by rain with snow, sleet and hail in places.

Gusts of up to 30 mph were recorded in many places yesterday and exposed coastal areas were again pounded by high seas. Merseyside and North Wales experienced some of the worst weather with a gale of 38 mph recorded at the Royal South Dock, Crosby. Ferry services between Birkenhead and Wallasey and Liverpool were suspended.

The Dublin car ferry, Munster, was stormbound in Tralee for Dock, Liverpool, for most of the night. At Carmarthen three hours after a Carmarthen and Swansea ferry was launched for the launching of a tanker were turned away. It will take

place today if the wind has moderated sufficiently. Along the North Wales coast the railway line was blocked between Rhyl and Aberystwyth at high tide and houses at Prestatun were inundated for the second time in two days when a 75 mph gale sent waves over the sea wall.

At Fleetwood, Lancashire, where parts of the town were under several feet of water on Saturday, yesterday's high tides brought renewed flooding. The inshore lifeboat from Blackpool, which had been transported by road was used in the streets.

In the North Sea the crew of five were rescued after a British coaster, the Nimrod, had sunk a few miles off Norfolk. Three were taken off by RAF helicopters, one by the Cromer lifeboat and another by a Dutch tanker.

Inland, speed restrictions were in force on many motorways. Two lorries were blown over on the M1 in Nottinghamshire, and the Mam Tor road in the Peak District, connecting Chapel-en-le-Frith and Sheffield, was closed.

Danish bacon may be scarce in British shops in the next fortnight because of the loss of 1,900 tonnes when a container ship foundered between Esbjerg, Denmark, and Grimsby on Saturday.

Weather forecast, page 2

Biko 'attacked interrogators'

Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, attacked the security police during interrogation, an inquest into his death was told.

An autopsy report said Mr Biko died of an extensive brain injury. Major Harold Snyman, of the Port Elizabeth security police, denied that Mr Biko had been assaulted during interrogation.

Page 7

Bank move resented

Tentative approaches have been made to local authorities and nationalized industries to persuade them to switch their accounts from London clearing banks to the Bank of England. This further move into the commercial sphere has led to a rift with the clearers.

Page 19

Bordeaux harvest

This year's harvest in the vineyards of Bordeaux is less than half of a normal one and a third of the exceptional harvest of 1976. But quality is high. Prices have been fixed to avoid excessive rises.

Page 6

Guide on homeless

The Department of the Environment has issued guidance on the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force on December 1. Local authorities are urged to adopt a sympathetic and practical approach to homeless people.

Page 3

Leyland reorganize

Mr Michael Edwards, British Leyland's new executive chairman, is expected to announce tomorrow organizational and management changes that will include the cars division being split into five profit accountable units. Mr Edwards emphasized recently the need for decentralization within the company.

Page 19

Arab summit planned

An Arab summit conference will be held on February 15, the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis. This was a victory for Egypt which resisted pressure from other Arab states for an immediate summit to define strategy against Israel.

Page 6

'Think tank' hearings

Sir Michael Palliser, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Mr Curtis Keble, the Chief Clerk, will be the main witnesses when a Commons committee begins a series of public hearings on the "think tank" report on Britain's overseas representation.

Page 7

Free school meals

A quarter of children who eat school dinners are expected to claim free meals as a result of new income eligibility.

Page 2

Italian wines

A four-page Special Report looks at their increasing popularity.

Page 10

On other pages

Leader page 15

Letters: On the firemen's dispute, from Mr Martin Braman, and others; on the image of the SS, Professor Will; on school governors' powers, from Mr K. R. Eastgate.

Leading articles: Russia stumbles in Africa; Local government finance; Nepal.

Features: "Café": Michael Bormay on the good deal the Danes get from the EEC; P. A. Denton says building new homes is not the answer to the housing problem.

Paul Overy on London art exhibitions; John Percival on Festival Ballet's Romeo and Juliet at Birmingham; concert notices by William Mann and Jean Chisell.

Obituaries: Page 16
Sir William Carr; Major-General R. G. S. Robbs; Canon Subir Biswas.

Sport: pages 12 and 13
Football: Ron Greenwood delays naming England team as Italians arrive; Rugby Union: Utley unlikely to play this season; Cricket: fixtures for 1978.

Business News, pages 15-34
Stock markets: Shares prices lost ground and the FT Index closed 4.7 off at 956.7.
Financial Editor: CU asks for more; Clearers, a clash with the Bank; Buying in America; Glaxo's turn.

Business features: Bryan Lovell takes a critical look at Scotland's independence proposals; Caroline Atkinson on why a rising yen still leaves Japan unbalanced.
Business Diary: The man in the £10,000 suit.

TIO PEPE
The Spanish name for
SHERRY

GONZALEZ BYASS

FIREMEN'S STRIKE

Belfast strikers fear public and Government may try to blame them for any fire deaths

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

Government officials expressed relief last night that the early stages of the strike in Northern Ireland were marked by a drop in the usual number of emergency calls. The most serious of three tackled by the Army was a fire in a derelict house on Belfast's peace line. It was soon extinguished.

Support for the strike was almost complete among Northern Ireland's 500 full-time firemen, although part-timers in many rural areas were still providing cover. Threats were made that the union cards of the part-timers would be withdrawn when the stoppage ends.

Among incidents handled by the part-time men was a fatal equipment used to free two injured men in an army lorry. A third soldier was killed in the crash.

Woman switchboard operators at the headquarters of the

Northern Ireland Fire Authority have joined the strike. The Government denied allegations that troops had taken over the communications centre, maintaining that the soldiers on duty were acting as liaison officers with the senior fire chiefs who continued to work.

At fire stations in Belfast and Londonderry, the two cities most at risk, pickets were mounted from 9 am and remained throughout the day despite strong wind and rain. The mood of the strikers was defiant, Belfast firemen bitterly rejecting government pleas that Ulster should be treated as a special case because of the Provisional IRA threat.

One hundred and eighty soldiers and fire-fighting experts from the three Services were on standby, ready to man 15 "Green Goddesses" shipped over at the weekend. In addition, they have three pumps which have to be towed to any fire. Despite the relative

calm of the first day of the strike, security chiefs remain suspicious of the intentions of the Provisional IRA, which has planned more than 400 fire-bombs in Ulster this year. Six exploded in business premises around the centre of Belfast on Sunday night.

A fireman said: "Our boys were involved in fighting both fires, as they have been in those caused by the hundreds of other attacks against the city centre. But no one ever thinks of the money we have saved by putting them out."

The strikers were convinced yesterday that hostility would soon build up as property, and possibly lives, were lost in unattended fires.

Mr William Broadhurst, a leading fireman said: "Psychologically we have tried to prepare ourselves for that, and for the possibility that the Government will try to blame us for deaths that we could not have saved even in normal circumstances."

Dangerous plants may have to close

Companies faced with particular fire hazards were urged by the Health and Safety Executive yesterday to consider shutting down the riskiest processes during the firemen's strike. The executive also warned employers that they had a continuing duty to meet legal requirements covering workers' safety.

In a statement, the executive said: "Plant presenting special risks of outbreak and spread of fire should be reviewed and the possibility of discontinuing its use should be considered where this is reasonably practicable."

"If a process is closed down to minimize fire hazard special precautions should be taken to ensure that a new risk is not introduced."

Patricia Tisdall writes: Retailers, most of whom are carrying extra valuable stocks during the build-up to Christmas, increased their fire security arrangements yesterday.

HOME NEWS

Applications to universities for next year tending to favour vocational science and business courses

Sociology shows a decline in popularity

By Our Education Correspondent

Sociology, which enjoyed great popularity among the undergraduates during the late 1960s and early 1970s, has passed its peak and its attractiveness is waning. The latest figures for applications for university places in sociology next year indicate a fall of 17 per cent in the number of students applying to read sociology, while total applications are up by 7 per cent.

About a third of the expected total number of candidates have applied, the Universities Central Council on Admissions announced yesterday. An analysis of those applications shows that students are tending to turn away from sub-

jects such as sociology, geography, law, architecture, history, and art, applications for which are down by more than 8 per cent compared with the same time last year. Instead they are turning to vocationally oriented science and business management courses.

Applications for civil, electrical, mechanical and general engineering courses are all up by more than a fifth, as are also applications for agriculture and forestry, physics, and business management.

There have been smaller, but substantial (more than 10 per cent) increases in medicine, veterinary studies, biochemistry, mathematics, chemistry and accountancy. Among the arts subjects there have been

similar increases in combined social studies, art and design, and what surprisingly in view of the decline in modern languages in schools, in combined languages.

Although Sociology students seem to be often in the news, their total number is small, accounting last year for less than 2 per cent of total undergraduate admissions to universities or a total of 1,421 students. Last year was the first time for more than a decade that the total number of first-year sociology undergraduates had declined, down from 1,539 in 1975. That trend is confirmed in the latest figures. Between 1969 and 1975 their number rose by almost a half.

A quarter of school meals likely to be free

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Government expects that one child in every four who eat school dinners will soon be claiming free school meals after the introduction yesterday of new income eligibility limits and the launching of a £3,000 government publicity campaign to promote the take-up of that entitlement.

Returns received so far from 60 of the 104 local education authorities in England and Wales to the October, 1977 census on school meals indicate that nearly a fifth, 18 per cent, of all pupils taking meals are receiving them free.

Last year about 850,000 of the 5,800,000 pupils taking school dinners, one in six, received them free. That represented only about three quarters of the total who were eligible to be eligible.

The latest revision of entitlement scales, combined with the new scales which were introduced in August, at the same time as the increase in cost of a school meal from 15p to 20p, should result in an extra 500,000 children claiming free school meals, Miss Jackson, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science, said yesterday.

The total number of those taking school meals, paid or free, have fallen by about a tenth, or nearly 600,000, compared with last year. The number claiming free meals has risen by about 15 per cent compared with last October.

Miss Jackson said the larger proportion of those receiving free meals should "diminish if not remove" the stigma that some felt to be attached to free meals.

She could not say how many more pupils would be eligible for free meals, but department officials thought it might be about a million, making a total of more than two million of the nine million pupils in England and Wales who are now entitled to a free meal, compared with an estimated 1,300,000 last year.

The new eligibility limits mean that a family with one child will be entitled to a free school meal if its gross income is below about £55, a family with two children should not have an income of more than about £70, and a family with three children not more than about £75.

Those gross income figures are only approximate, as the entitlement is based on the family's income after deducting known by members of the NUS strike committee. If the NGA returned to work, the newspapers could resume publication in a reduced form.

Secret moves to end strike by journalists

By Our Labour Staff

Proposals to end a 21-week close-down strike by 100 journalists employed by the Westminster Press at Darlington will be considered at an executive meeting of the National Union of Journalists tomorrow.

They have been drawn up by the National Graphical Association, whose stoppage in sympathy with the journalists has halted the *Northern Echo*, the *Evening Despatch*, the *Darlington and Stockton Times* and the *Durham Advertiser* series.

The NGA made clear that the journalists support for the NUS's attitude towards the proposals. Details are being kept secret.

Places may be left to burn out

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

A warning that buildings may have to be left to burn out during the firemen's strike as long as lives are not in danger was given yesterday in Edinburgh by Mr Ewing, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office.

The number of Green Goddess appliances operated by service crews in Scotland will be increased to 130 today, and two Royal Navy teams expert in the use of breathing equipment will be standing by. About 1,600 troops stationed throughout Scotland are working 12-hour shifts to handle emergencies.

By yesterday evening many fewer fires than usual had been reported. In the Strathclyde region, where 51 people have died in fires this year, there was only a handful of minor outbreaks instead of the usual daily average of 80 emergencies.

Mr Richard Knowlton, the firemaster, said lack of breathing equipment might become a serious handicap. Last year firemen made 176 rescues from burning buildings, using the apparatus: 107 in Glasgow, none of the military firemen has been trained in the use of breathing equipment.

Glasgow has one of the worst fire records in Europe, and 600 troops with 45 Green Goddesses are standing by there. All normal fire-fighting equipment, including the turntable ladders, is locked away in the Strathclyde Region's 41 full-time fire stations.

The highest outbreak yesterday was at the wastepaper mill of John W. Hagan, of East Kilbride, where 400 tons of paper was destroyed.

All Glasgow's firemen are supporting the strike. The Rev Geoffrey Shaw, convener of Strathclyde Region, said precautions were as good as could be.

Mr Ewing, speaking at a press conference, said "that because of the lack of breathing equipment there might be cases where buildings would have to be left to burn provided no one was in danger. The saving of life had priority over property."

Ronald Kerhew writes: In West Yorkshire about 50 fire appliances and 200 troops were standing by and a small rubbish fire was put out by troops at Bradford.

Union officials said there was almost complete support, but part-time fireman manned Northampton and Featherstone stations.

Senior fire officers, who are not members of the Fire Brigades Union, reported for duty at one or two stations. A union official at Bradford said the men would "not be too happy with them when the strike was over."

Wales TUC warning to part-timers

By Tim Jones

The Wales TUC gave a warning to part-time firemen yesterday not to "don the mantle of moonlighting strike-breakers" by performing routine and non-emergency work. It said the dispute would be monitored.

It urged the Government, local authorities and the Fire Brigades Union to draw up a code of conduct for tackling fires during the strike.

Mr George Wright, general secretary, said that the code should define an emergency and generally that should mean a fire where there was danger to life and limb. He said there should be no interference with troops tackling fires.

The 516 troops in Wales who are manning 18 "Green Goddesses" had little work yesterday.

In Gwent most of the part-time firemen decided to work normally, while in Mid-Glamorgan most backed the strike.

"Conscience" shift: In North Wales, three firemen and a sub-officer last night crossed a picket line to begin a 15-hour "conscience" shift inside Rhyl headquarters.

A FULLY QUALIFIED FIREMAN WORKS—

48 Hrs.

FOR TAKE HOME PAY OF—

£46.71

NO OVERTIME—NO BONUS!

A picket making his grievance plain outside Lambeth fire station.

Mr Mulley gets a close look at five 'Green Goddesses' with Royal Artillery crews

Hoax calls as army substitutes move in

By Philip Howard

As political head of the troops who are providing the emergency fire services, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday became temporary chief national fireman. He has 10,000 men available for fire-fighting, as many as are needed to run the equipment available, including 125 "Green Goddesses" at least 20 years old.

Yesterday Mr Mulley visited the troops at Finsbury Barracks in City Road, London, usually the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, now for the duration of the firemen's strike the headquarters of the eastern sector of the special London fire centres. About 60 recruits from the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich are manning five Green Goddesses and their attendant vehicles.

It was a setting for an Ealing comedy, rich with the atmosphere of the 1950s. Band leaders rested on the seats of the antique lorries, which leaked water at every hose and

spigot. Field guns from the Boer War decorated the entrance to the RAC headquarters. The only modern vehicles on view were the police motor-cycles for escorting the fire-fighters, and they were German BMW.

Mr Mulley clambered precariously up the back of a Green Goddess, hauled from behind by Major-General John Swinton, General Officer Commanding London District. Mr Mulley said: "The Armed Services cannot provide the same cover as the professional fire service. We shall do our best with the equipment we have got. My concern is to make sure that we at the Ministry of Defence are giving the maximum support to these troops as they try to meet the emergency."

General Swinton described the Green Goddesses as very workmanlike, rather unsophisticated, old civil defence vehicles, unsuitable for London because the lorries on their roofs are only 30ft long. At least they have not been driven far. The one that the

Secretary of State scrambled on had only 505 miles on the clock.

Mr Mulley denied that the troops were being used for strike-breaking. He said: "The soldiers are quite satisfied that they have a responsibility to deal with the emergency. There is nothing unusual in seeing the Armed Services in a civilian emergency to minimise loss of life and damage."

While he was at Finsbury, the soldiers tackled the first London fire successfully in a Camberwell rubbish skip. General Swinton told Mr Mulley that they were getting far more hoax calls than usual. Unlike the fire brigade, the troops do not go out until the police have confirmed that it is a genuine call. Mr Mulley said he was satisfied with the arrangements in the short time available.

In the shadow of the tower blocks of the Barbican it was difficult not to adapt the Duke of Wellington's "I do not know what effect these precautions will have upon fires, but, by God, they terrify me."

'Tribune' plea to Mr Rees

By Our Political Correspondent

The *Tribune* Group of Labour MPs decided last night to make direct representations to Mr Rees, Home Secretary, on the firemen's strike.

They were supported by a motion tabled yesterday by Mr James Sillars, Scottish Labour Party MP for Ayrshire, South, a former member of the Fire Brigades Union, quoting from a speech made by Mr Rees at the union's conference and referring to "a pay policy

which should be fair and flexible."

It also asked the Government to have another look at the claim made by the firemen that they are being left behind in the adjustment of wages in the public sector.

The group nominated a delegation, to be led by Mr Edward Fletcher, MP for Darlington, and the group's chairman, who will seek an urgent interview with Mr Rees.

A Chelsea drain defeats Guards

By Stewart Trender

The hardest task facing the 200 substitute firemen at Chelsea Barracks, London, yesterday proved to be an unsuccessful attempt at unblocking a drain.

For the rest of their day the 200 firemen troops for the Guards' Depot at Pimlico, based at Chelsea, were detailed off, polished the "Green Goddesses", engines, or rolled out the hoses and rolled it up again.

Plans to billet troops called off

By Michael Horsnell

A clash between firemen and the Government over plans to billet Service men at fire stations in parts of Essex was narrowly averted before the strike began yesterday.

The county brigade confirmed that it had originally decided to order troops into fire stations with bedding and food, contrary to Government instructions. But the plan was called off after discussions between angry Fire Brigades Union representatives and fire chiefs.

Last week the Home Office advised chief fire officers throughout the country that no troops should be allowed into fire stations, in order not to exacerbate the dispute.

The county brigade's E division faced the biggest threat of a clash. At the divisional headquarters, Harlow, the 54 firemen were told of the contingency arrangements at 9 pm on Sunday, only 12 hours before the strike was due to start.

Union leaders immediately met Mr Reginald Cox, the divisional officer, and asked him to make other arrangements.

A member of the station's strike committee told me: "We convinced him, I think, that it would be foolhardy to do this because it would cause a terrific argument. About an hour afterwards we were told that the plan was being called off."

The 20 Service men involved were eventually billeted at a Territorial Army depot at Old Harlow, near by.

Ten men from The Staffordshire Regiment, asked him to make other arrangements. A member of the station's strike committee told me: "We convinced him, I think, that it would be foolhardy to do this because it would cause a terrific argument. About an hour afterwards we were told that the plan was being called off."

checking the location of fire hydrants. An officer said: "Fire brigade headquarters have all this information on computer and, to get it, all they have to do is press seven buttons. Apparently, they would not, or could not, give the information to us because of the dispute."

Mr Roy Barnes, Chief Fire Officer for Essex, said he had received reports that some firemen had been threatened with union disciplinary action unless they agreed to come out on strike. He said: "It was necessary to take steps to ensure that the right to employment with Essex County Council is guaranteed whether they agree to a strike or decide to work."

Essex Fire Brigade headquarters, at Brentwood, reported an unusual quiet day. Only 13 calls for help had been received throughout the county, of which 12 were false alarms. The one "serious" incident was a fire in a number of a South Benfleet.

Two jailed for plot to aid illegal entrants

From Our Correspondent, Stoke-on-Trent

Two men said by Judge Taylor to have taken part in a fraudulent scheme to obtain insurance cards for illegal immigrants were jailed at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court yesterday.

The court was told that Sarm Singh Nair, aged 31, and Corporation Street, Stafford, and Sarwan Singh, aged 52, of Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, had forged applications for insurance cards which were used for substantial amounts to help illegal immigrants to find work.

Both had pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy to forge the applications. They were cleared on a further charge of conspiring to aid illegal immigrants.

Mr Nair was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, but Mr Singh received two years, because, Judge Taylor said, he was the organiser. He also ordered that a six-month suspended sentence imposed on Mr Singh for a similar offence should run consecutively.

Three similar men pleaded guilty to the same offence weeks ago and the judge said: "If I had known as much about this case then as I do now I would have dealt differently with the others. I was too lenient with the first three."

Irishman flown from Dutch jail

Patrick Gallagher, who was said by lawyers to be at the "point of no return" after starving himself in a Dutch prison for a month, was arrested by Irish police as he arrived at Dublin Airport last night. He was charged in connection with failing to appear in court over his alleged part in a post office robbery.

Mr Gallagher, aged 38, from Dublin, was flown back on an extradition warrant after failing to reverse the decision of a Dutch court ordering him back to the Irish Republic.

Libel damages for ex-diplomat

Mr Zuleik Ayala Cabada, a former Uruguayan diplomat, accepted a damages award and his costs in the high court yesterday in settlement of his libel action against Penguin Books.

Mr Philip Agee's book, *Inside the Company—CIA Diary*, published by Penguin, falsely alleged that Mr Cabada acted as a CIA agent for the United States against the Cuban Government, the court was told.

Weather forecast and recordings

Today

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7:18 am	4:12 pm
Moon rises:	Moon sets:
11:21 am	3:49 pm
Lighting at: 4:42 pm to 6:50 am	
High water: London Bridge, 4.9 am, 7.4m (24.2ft); 4.35 pm, 7.5m (24.6ft); Avonmouth, 9.48 am, 13.0m (42.6ft); 10.12 pm, 12.5m (41.1ft); Dover, 12.2 am, 12.2m (40.0ft); 1.39 pm, 6.6m (21.6ft); Hull, 8.40 am, 7.4m (24.4ft); 8.25 pm, 7.3m (24.1ft); Liverpool, 1.30 am, 9.3m (30.7ft); 1.54 pm, 9.5m (31.1ft).	

A depression will move SE across the North Sea towards Denmark, bringing cold, windy and showery conditions to all parts. Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S England, E, Channel, S, and S.W. Windy, sunny intervals, showers, blustery and heavy; wind NW, strong to severe gale; max temp 7° to 9°C.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; F, fair; S, sun; B, sun, showers.

Area	C	F
London	10	50
Edinburgh	12	54
Glasgow	11	52
Belfast	10	50
Cardiff	11	52
Birmingham	12	54
Manchester	11	52
Nottingham	12	54
Leeds	11	52
Sheffield	12	54
Coventry	11	52
Exeter	12	54
Bristol	11	52
Southampton	12	54
Portsmouth	11	52
London	10	50
Edinburgh	12	54
Glasgow	11	52
Belfast	10	50
Cardiff	11	52
Birmingham	12	54
Manchester	11	52
Nottingham	12	54
Leeds	11	52
Sheffield	12	54
Coventry	11	52
Exeter	12	54
Bristol	11	52
Southampton	12	54
Portsmouth	11	52

Sea: Passages: 8 North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W, gale to storm; sea high. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, veering N, 20k, occasionally storm; sea, high.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm 13° (55°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am 6°C (43°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 57 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.11in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 996.5 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Overseas selling prices
Australia, 20s 2d; Belgium, 20s 2d; Canada, 20s 2d; Denmark, 20s 2d; France, 20s 2d; Germany, 20s 2d; Greece, 20s 2d; Hong Kong, 20s 2d; India, 20s 2d; Italy, 20s 2d; Japan, 20s 2d; Korea, 20s 2d; Malaysia, 20s 2d; Mexico, 20s 2d; Netherlands, 20s 2d; New Zealand, 20s 2d; Norway, 20s 2d; Portugal, 20s 2d; Spain, 20s 2d; Sweden, 20s 2d; Switzerland, 20s 2d; Taiwan, 20s 2d; Thailand, 20s 2d; Turkey, 20s 2d; USA, Canada, 20s 2d; Venezuela, 20s 2d.

Published daily except Sundays, Mondays, 1 December 1977, and Good Friday. Times Newspaper, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Telephone: 01-522 2200. Telegrams: "Times" ZK 2200. Telex: 340000. Cable: "Times" ZK 2200. Second class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes in New York to The Times, 10, Abchurch Lane, New York, NY 10004.

15 NOV 1977

HOME NEWS

Code urges council sympathy for homeless

Local authorities are being urged by the Department of the Environment to adopt a more sympathetic and practical approach to homeless people. A "code of guidance" on the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force on December 1, says authorities should try to secure satisfactory accommodation for those in genuine need and should not automatically serve notices to quit on tenants in arrears with their rent.

The Act is the first legislation specifically designed for homeless people. Councils will be under an obligation to provide homes for priority cases which will include, among others, the mentally ill, one-parent families and pregnant women.

The code urges authorities wherever possible to take early action to prevent homelessness. It suggests ways of securing accommodation for those in need, including short-term leases on empty houses and, as a last resort, use of guest houses and hotels. Cases to rent arrears should not attract as a routine penalty the issue of a notice to quit, it says.

Such cases are open to a variety of approaches, including postponement of payment to give tenants a chance to put their finances in order.

The code emphasises the need for cooperation between housing authorities and social and voluntary services.

Once a home is found it is stated contact should be maintained with tenants to prevent their becoming homeless again.

Mr Armstrong, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday: "While the Act is very much a pioneering step, its implementation will be a constant, but built upon the sound experience of the past."

The Association of District Councils said that although the code contained sensible advice, such detailed guidance was unnecessary. "Difficult decisions, especially in the case of the intentionally homeless, will have to be taken by authorities on individual cases in the light of particular circumstances."

housing campaign: A further stage in the Government's campaign to persuade local authorities to diversify their housing programmes is marked by the publication today of a new study by the housing development directorate of the Department of the Environment, (our Planning Reporter writes).

The study gives guidance to councils on provision of dwellings for small households, as opposed to conventional family units. According to the department, more than half of British households consist of only one or two people.

Providing more accommodation for single people, one-parent families, newly married couples and elderly people, it is hoped, will release more accommodation for larger families.

Housing Development Note VI: House Shells Part 2 (Department of the Environment, Room 1107, Buckle House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7ER; 65p plus postage).

Soldier murder charge
Bombardier Sean Andrew Conboy, aged 21, of the Royal Artillery, was remanded in custody for a week at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with murdering Lance Corporal Barry Hilton, aged 25, at the weekend.

S Yorkshire seeks £8m to improve canal
South Yorkshire County Council is to mount an impressive publicity campaign this month in the hope that public enthusiasm will sway the Government towards its view that nearly £8m should be spent on the improvement of 35 kilometres of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, a canal that links the industrial heart of South Yorkshire with the Humber ports and therefore with Scandinavia and Europe.

With it in the enterprise is the British Waterways Board, who is confident that not only would the improvement establish the commercial viability of the canal but that it would also have far-reaching economic and environmental advantages for the county.

The plan is simple. It involves the lengthening, improvement or reconstruction of 10 locks, the realignment of navigation channels at four points, the straightening of a few kinks in the waterway and the construction of a swing bay. The cost is trivial compared with the expense of half a dozen miles of motorway or the reconstruction of a few bridges.

The county council and the waterways board agree that in any case the Government is committed to spending some £2,500,000 just to maintain the canal in its present state. If the canal were to be downgraded to a cruising waterway only it would still cost £1,500,000. It cannot be closed and filled in because it consists partly of a natural river.

The £7.8m cost of bringing it to the standard demanded by the county council includes the amount the Government is committed to spending already just to maintain or downgrade the canal. The maximum additional money required therefore is only about £6m.

The county council has submitted the improvement scheme to the EEC, which has made encouraging noises indicating that 30 per cent of the investment required might well

Marxists in higher education, 2: Dramatic examples from polytechnics: Some sociology courses being blamed for students' indoctrination

By Ian Bradley

Polytechnics provide some of the most dramatic examples of Marxist influence in higher education. The Gould report quotes an advertisement for the sociology course at Middlesex Polytechnic that promises students: "You would study a number of themes, including the philosophical and historical background to Marxism and socialism, the roots of racism and sexism, revolutionary movements and the dynamics of domination in industrial societies and the third world."

Mr Terence Miller, Director of North London Polytechnic, has recently called in the examination papers for the BSc degree in sociology to see whether they show signs of over-Marxist indoctrination in the teaching.

Like universities, polytechnics underwent rapid expansion in the 1960s, which was particularly concentrated in the social sciences. In 1960 no polytechnic was teaching sociology; now there are 30. Middlesex Polytechnic alone has a sociology department of 65.

Dr A. H. Halsey, of Nuffield College, Oxford, says: "The gold rush of the 1960s did allow for easy prospecting for all kinds of 'isms', and certainly several varieties of Marxism were borne in on this wave of expansion."

Mrs Caroline Cox, former head of the sociology department at North London Polytechnic, feels that polytechnics are more vulnerable to left-wing indoctrination than universities. She says: "They are struggling to establish themselves academically. Both intellectually and structurally, universities have got more back-up and resilience. At polytechnics the students are far more isolated. It is quite possible for someone doing social sciences never to come across anyone reading another subject."

Mr Miller thinks that serious Marxist activity is confined to North London Polytechnic, North East London Polytechnic and Middlesex Polytechnic. Significantly, these three institutions concentrate particularly on social sciences.

The situation at North London Polytechnic is well known through reports in the press. Certainly it is not a typical institution. None the less, many of its staff fear that what is going on there, which was serious enough to have a major seminar by lecturers, three of them write a book on it (*The Rape of Reason*) and later John Professor Julius Gould's study group, could happen in other polytechnics.

Mr Miller says: "It is the atmosphere here more than anything else that is worrying: the tone of conversations, the attitude of people as they pass in the corridor, the slamming of

doors and the turning of backs. The whole air has a definite texture to it. The whole atmosphere of Marxism and its associated paraphernalia of women's liberation, anti-abortion, Chile and Northern Ireland impregnates everyone, just like coal dust sets into a miner's skin."

Mr Miller thinks that no more than a tenth of the staff at North London Polytechnic are on the far left, although Mrs Cox says that the proportion in the sociology department is as high as 66 per cent. Mr Miller feels that by using tactics of bullying and intimidation, however, they are able to exert an influence out of all proportion to their size.

"They are positively bent on upsetting and destroying the state. My objection is to people who use their privileged position as teachers to preach this doctrine. It is morally wrong. Their disaffection infects the whole body", he says.

Mrs Cox refers to girl students called "bourgeois bags" in seminars by lecturers who had come in tears to the women's cloakroom as the only place where they could safely discuss with her their intimidation by left-wing teachers.

She says that a young member of staff came out of a departmental meeting shaking like a leaf after being subjected to intense pressure to falsify her marks in order to pass left-

wing students in an examination that they had clearly failed on academic grounds. The head of the department, concerned, she says, openly admitted that he was not interested in academic standards.

Dr John Marks, a lecturer in physics at North London Polytechnic, is convinced that the disruption that has occurred there over the past few years is a result of a carefully organized campaign by students and staff in the Communist Party. He quotes the remarks of students at a sociology seminar that they had come to the polytechnic "to create a Marxist cell" and that they wanted to be taught Marxism only because they had come to learn the gospel in order to go out and propagate it.

He says many lecturers have actively supported student disruption and consistently thwarted attempts by himself and others to draw up an agreed code of conduct.

Mrs Cox says she was never allowed to give more than two lectures on the sociology of religion in a three-year sociology course. She suspects that it was because of her own position as a Christian. Yet a fellow lecturer, she says, was warmly received when he suggested that religion should figure in a course on deviance.

Mrs Cox, who is now director of the Nursing Education Research Unit at Chelsea College,

is particularly worried by the effects of Marxist influence on the teaching of vocational subjects such as medicine, social work and education. She quotes cases of social workers who refuse to accept that people are suffering from schizophrenia or depression because they have been taught that mental illness does not exist as such and is simply a product of the capitalist system.

Her view is shared by Mr Ronald Lewis, chief probation officer for Kent. He says: "We have had a lot of people coming into the probation service in the past few years who, one is fairly certain, have been indoctrinated in polytechnics particularly into thinking that all crime is caused by economics and that all judges are bent. Their social work education has basically been a political education."

At a conference last year Mr Lewis quoted a professor of social administration who advised his students to divert thieves from corner shops to Marks and Spencer, "who could well afford the loss".

Mr Brian Munday, a lecturer in social work at the Kent University, thinks the influence of Marxism on social work training has diminished in the past five years. He says: "It is in good times that people feel free to take a critical stance. In bad times like now people

get their heads down and concentrate on finding jobs."

More social work courses are now being taken by people who have had experience in the field, which tends to make them less susceptible to the excesses of the left. There are certainly people training social workers from a Marxist standpoint, but they are heavily outnumbered.

Education and teacher training is another area where there is concern about the effects of Marxist influence. Mrs Cox quotes a typical reading list from a polytechnic course on the sociology of education. The four main suggested books are all heavily Marxist in tone: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, *Cultural Action for Freedom*, *Schooling and Capitalism*, and *Schooling in Capitalist America*, which advocates training students and pupils in the use of violence.

Professor David Martin of the London School of Economics says: "Within the whole education system there is a steady drip of indoctrination. It moves from universities and polytechnics to teacher training colleges and so through to schools and children. Its message is that society is a sham and that everything worth while is middle-class bilge. If you create that feeling in society, you unnerve people and allow dogma to triumph."

Tomorrow: Non-formal institutions and the media.

Women lose fight to save their church

St Erkenwald's Church, Southend, Essex, said by Sir John Bettelmann to stand out like a beard, but the church is to be made redundant, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decided yesterday.

Three worshippers at the church, which was completed in 1910, Miss Olive Rippey of Rochford Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea; Mrs Doris Medcalf, of Kilworth Avenue; and Mrs Jessie Payne, of Cheltenham Road, Southend, had petitioned against the decision to declare St Erkenwald's redundant.

Miss Rippey told the committee that the decision was against the opinion of the Council of Places of Worship that there was no church in the diocese worshipable with St Erkenwald's and every effort should be made to preserve it.

The Council for the Care of Churches had said: "Internally the building is quite breathtaking. It is not only the finest of the Southend churches, but probably the finest of its period in Essex."

The council had also said that to demolish "this magnificent group of buildings, in near perfect condition", was economic nonsense.

Mrs Payne said local redevelopment would mean that St Erkenwald's could look forward to an increasing congregation. The reasons for the proposed redundancy were that the use was small, there was no heating and the other churches were well able to absorb the St Erkenwald's worshippers.

Lord Dilhorne, sitting with Lord Justice Edmund Davies and Lord Scarman, said that all the points in the petition had been considered.

Gunmen snatch £7,000
Two men armed with a shotgun snatched a bag containing about £7,000 from security guards at the National Westminster bank at Peckham Rye, London, yesterday.

Home head said to have assaulted girls
Harry Bunker, aged 59, a magistrate, pleaded not guilty at Winchester Crown Court yesterday to indecently assaulting five girls while he was superintendent at Ashdown children's home, in Southampton.

Mr David Calcutt, QC, for the prosecution, said the alleged offences took place between 1971 and 1976. It was the custom of the home that every morning each girl would kiss Mr Bunker.

"But when these girls reached the age where they began to develop sexually," he added, "you will hear from some of them that this man began to pay close attention to their developing breasts, touching and sometimes rather more than touching over, inside and beneath their clothing."

That was not the limit of Mr Bunker's interest. He would take the girls into a large toy and sweet cupboard, where "a series of a very much more intimate nature occurred." He added that Mr Bunker touched the girls' vaginas and sometimes got the girls to masturbate him.

The women who reported the girls' allegations was dismissed a week later.

The trial continues today.

Hospital case adjourned to await TV film
From Our Correspondent Edinburgh
The trial of an Edinburgh nurse alleged to have endangered the life of a girl of 13 by cutting off her air supply as she lay in an intensive care ward was stopped at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday after a suggestion that a television programme might have prejudged her defence.

Mrs Margaret Atkins, aged 35, of Edinburgh, was due to stand trial on two charges alleging that she twice assaulted Elizabeth Semple, now dead, formerly of Shade Park Gardens, by occluding her air supply on February 14 and 15 to the danger of her life.

It is alleged that she placed her hand over a tube maintaining the girl's airway on February 14, and placed a pad over another tube maintaining the airway on February 15.

Mr Donald Robertson, QC, for Mrs Atkins's defence called for an adjournment to the trial before a jury was sworn in so that the film of the programme, *Weekend World*, and its script could be seen by the sheriff, the deputy fiscal for the crown, and by himself.

The case was adjourned until December 14.

Lord Lucan's creditors to get 7½p in £ more

Creditors of Lord Lucan are to get £4,400 on December 12, a dividend of 7½p in the pound. The money is mainly from an auction of possessions formerly belonging to the missing peer, who is wanted for the murder of his children's nursemaid.

With the latest payout creditors in Lord Lucan's bankruptcy will have received a total of 92½p in the pound.

"I am still confident that they will get paid in full, but I do not yet know when," Mr Dennis Gilson, the accountant appointed by the creditors as the trustee in bankruptcy, said. The main assets yet to be realized are funds in a Swiss bank account, and a \$15,000 legacy from Lord Lucan's godmother, Marcia Brady Tucker, of New York. Mr Gilson said: "She was evidently very close to the Lucan family, and during the war acted almost as a mother to Lord Lucan."

Lawyers in New York are contesting Mr Gilson's claim to the legacy. Under New York State law, if a legatee is declared bankrupt within six months of the death of the testator the money need not be paid.

"This does not apply in England," Mr Gilson said. "I am claiming that our law is supreme in this matter."

So far, Lord Lucan's assets have realized £103,300, but because his possessions were both in Britain and abroad, expenses have been heavy.

Bingo hall staff to 'face charges'
Twelve members of the staff and management were arrested on warrants in a raid last Friday at the Scala bingo hall at Farnborough, Hampshire.

Chief Superintendent James Reed, of Aldershot police, said all 12 had been released, but inquiries were continuing. Charges would be preferred against some.

Angry members of the crowd gathered round Mr Morgan and two of them held him. The police found three more eggs on him.

Mr Purnell said Mr Morgan's son, Bernard, was sentenced to detention four years ago. "He thinks he was wrongly convicted and has been trying to draw attention to this," he added.

Mr Purnell added that Mr Morgan's wife and children had also been convicted of offences involving egg-throwing on other occasions in the past. His daughter and one son had been arrested on Sunday in Halifax for throwing eggs during a remembrance ceremony.

Because of the circumstances of their campaign and the publicity the family had suffered in their community.

£50 fine for throwing eggs at the Queen's car
Bernard Morgan, aged 42, who was said to have thrown eggs at the royal car at the Festival of Remembrance, must not disrespect to the Queen but was seeking publicity in a campaign to prove his son's innocence. It was stated at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

"In fact, he is a very strong supporter of the monarchy," Mr Adam Griffiths, for the defence, told Mr Kenneth Hurlington, the magistrate, who remarked: "Well, this was a very odd way of showing it."

Mr Morgan, unemployed, of Westfield's Old Town, Wadsworth, Halifax, West Yorkshire, was fined £50 and bound over for a year after he had admitted using threatening behaviour and damaging police uniforms.

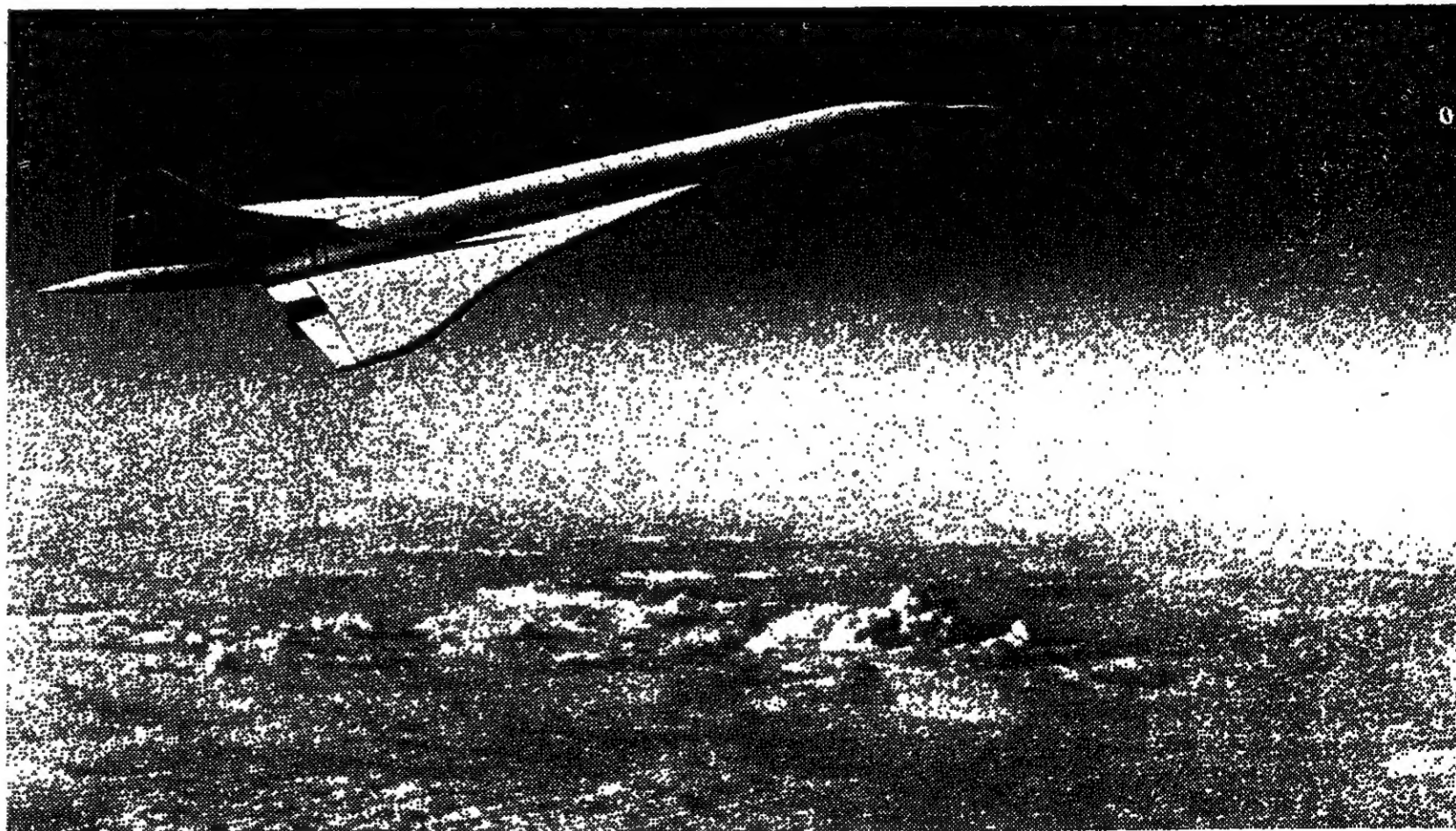
Chief Inspector John Purnell said Mr Morgan threw three eggs at the Queen's Rolls-Royce as it arrived at the royal entrance of the Albert Hall on Saturday.

The first egg hit a constable, the second the car's nearside window, the third "hit me in the face, running down my side and all over my uniform."

Mr Purnell said that Mr Morgan's wife and children had also been convicted of offences involving egg-throwing on other occasions in the past. His daughter and one son had been arrested on Sunday in Halifax for throwing eggs during a remembrance ceremony.

Because of the circumstances of their campaign and the publicity the family had suffered in their community.

Paris-New York in 3½ hours. Daily from 22nd November.



Now you can make your reservation for a 4-hour Headstart on the rest of the world. November 22nd marks the debut of daily supersonic service between Paris and New York. The Headstart Flight leaves Roissy at 11 a.m. and arrives at J.F.K. Airport in New York at 8:30 a.m. local time.

You'll arrive in New York refreshed and relaxed, four valuable hours faster than by any other flight, right at the start of a full business day. You'll cross the Atlantic in a mere 3½ hours aboard incomparable Concorde, surpassing the sun for speed.

The precious gift of Air France is to make the most of your precious time.

AIR FRANCE
The best of France to all the world.

Regional report

Ronald Kershaw Sheffield

come from the European Regional Development Fund.

The only stumbling block remaining appears to be the British Waterways Board, who is confident that not only would the improvement establish the commercial viability of the canal but that it would also have far-reaching economic and environmental advantages for the county.

The plan is simple. It involves the lengthening, improvement or reconstruction of 10 locks, the realignment of navigation channels at four points, the straightening of a few kinks in the waterway and the construction of a swing bay. The cost is trivial compared with the expense of half a dozen miles of motorway or the reconstruction of a few bridges.

The county council and the waterways board agree that in any case the Government is committed to spending some £2,500,000 just to maintain the canal in its present state. If the canal were to be downgraded to a cruising waterway only it would still cost £1,500,000. It cannot be closed and filled in because it consists partly of a natural river.

The £7.8m cost of bringing it to the standard demanded by the county council includes the amount the Government is committed to spending already just to maintain or downgrade the canal. The maximum additional money required therefore is only about £6m.

The county council has submitted the improvement scheme to the EEC, which has made encouraging noises indicating that 30 per cent of the investment required might well

prove great tracts of land that might otherwise pit heads in the hinterland. The improvement scheme and the operation of the canal would provide 700 jobs over the next 20 years.

It is true that the shipment of coal accounts for three-quarters of canal traffic at present, but the county council and the waterways board are convinced that industries relying on the bulk movement of products, for instance, heavy pulp, aggregates, oil and the like, would be attracted to South Yorkshire. Those industries relying on bulk imports from Europe and bulk exports to Europe would have every facility required if only the canal could make the size of barge that makes economic sense.

They are sure that the relatively low transport costs would increase demand for goods, which would in turn stimulate employment. Other areas of the Yorkshire and Humberside region might well benefit because the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation would link South Yorkshire not only to the Humber, but also to other areas served by Trent Navigation, Calder Navigation and the Selby Canal, including places such as Nottingham, Leeds, Scarborough, Goole, Grimsby and Hull.

It is visualized that BACAT (Barge aboard catamaran) services would give cheap, safe access to and from EEC partners in Europe and Scandinavia.

From the middle of this month the canal campaign will be directed at MPs and public alike. Exhibitions will be staged in London and the North pointing out the advantages of the scheme. Car stickers, literature and press advertising will be widespread and at the end of the month a massive lobby of Westminster will be held in an attempt to drive home the advantages of the improvement scheme.

HOME NEWS

Labour rebels aim to wreck devolution Bills in guillotine vote

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Labour opponents of devolution for Scotland and Wales last night kept up their psychological warfare against the Government, and reassured their confidence that the Bills can be wrecked in the key "guillotine" votes tomorrow.

Last night's votes on second reading were seen by the rebels as opening skirmishes; only tomorrow, they said, would the full impact be seen of Labour opposition or abstention, with Tory opposition, and the smattering of minor parties opposing.

It was learnt that the Tories, scenting blood, are bringing back all their MPs from the European Assembly at Strasbourg. There is apparently to be no "pairing" of the sick.

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, confirmed yesterday that all six Ulster Unionists would vote against the Government on both Bills and on the guillotine. Their opposition would be maintained for as long as Ulster remained without its own devolved administration.

The Government would not

be brought down, of course, unless Mr Callaghan chooses to make the vote an issue of confidence. Loss of both the Wales and Scotland Bills, which is what would inevitably follow the loss of guillotine motions, would, however, be the next worst thing to loss of confidence.

The Government whips are said to remain confident. All Labour MPs have been privately warned of the seriousness of tearing a hole in the legislative programme.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, has indicated that the Liberal pact with Labour might collapse if the devolution Bills were lost. The absence of a formal vote of no confidence should not lead Labour's rebels "to imagine that the Government could continue in office" if it failed to get the Bills, he stated.

Mr Colin Phipps, Labour MP for Dundee West, and an official whip for the Labour rebels, was hoping for 20 Labour votes against, and perhaps 10 abstentions. He said he needed "a net vote of 25" to beat the Liberal guillotine and the Tories pulling out all the stops "for Wednesday".

Parliamentary report, page 10

When energy runs out, page 21

Nationalists have four aims for agriculture

From Our Own Correspondent
Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party yesterday proposed a ministry of farming and forestry for Scotland and an agriculture finance bank to help to bring underused land into good heart.

At a press conference in Edinburgh to launch the party's agricultural policy it was announced that bringing farming and forestry under one ministry to develop integrated land use might end the era of competition and hostility that the present arrangements sometimes produced.

The policy document suggests that to increase output policies on land ownership and tenure should be slanted towards the concept of the family farm, which is deeply rooted in Scottish tradition and has been proved the most productive unit in agriculture and the most socially beneficial.

A five-year production rolling programme should be underwritten by the Govern-

ment to secure long-term stable prices for both farmer and consumer; that would provide the farmer with the security of increased production.

A deficiency payment scheme and production grants for cattle and sheep-rearing are also proposed.

The policy has four aims: to make Scotland largely self-sufficient in the foodstuffs it can produce; to restore the land to its position as Scotland's primary productive resource; to build up an exportable surplus; and to ensure a secure future for those working in the industry.

Mr Andrew Welsh, MP for Angus, South, and SNP parliamentary spokesman on agriculture, said agriculture already employs more people in Scotland than any other industry. Its efficiency was almost second to none in Europe, but it required a secure political framework in which to operate with clear, long-term goals for production.

Bournemouth contenders

Nominations closed yesterday for the by-election at Bournemouth, East, on November 24 caused by the resignation of Mr John Cordle over the Poulson affair. The six candidates are: D. A. Atkinson (Con); W. G. Books (Dem Monarchist, Public

Safety, White Resident); J. B. N. Goodwin (Lab); K. McKinnell (Nat Front); D. Matthews (L); J. P. Neill (Brit); and J. P. Neill (Brit). The figures at the last general election were: J. H. Cordle (C) 20,790; D. E. L. (Lab) 5,422; M. Hayes (Nat Front) 528; C. Maj: 10,561.

Scottish views on devolution, 1: Doubts about Bill SNP would like to force election

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

From the south it may seem that devolution has joined the noisy hills, the pipes and thrills as part of the popular Scottish identity.

If so, familiarity with the grave constitutional issue has not bred confidence that the Government's latest proposals will succeed when they are laid before Parliament, peremptorily guillotined and set to a referendum.

Seasoned observers of the Scottish political mood when asked to predict the outcome are apt to hedge their guesses or admit to make one. Both sides of the argument share deep uncertainty.

The line-up in Scotland is much the same, most Labour MPs for and Conservative MPs against the Bill, with a significant number from each camp disagreeing with their party's line. The Scottish National Party will support the Bill in an almost disinterested way. What it seeks is independence, but it accepts that a Scottish Assembly may be a useful stepping stone towards that end.

The Liberals favour stronger powers for the assembly but will support the Government on this issue, although detractors are expected south of the border.

The Prime Minister's apparent reluctance to make the failure of the two Bills a matter for a general election has made the position of some Scottish MPs uncertain.

There are some Labour members who will reluctantly support the Bill and the guillotine motion and then campaign all the more strongly against the Bill at the referendum. Several doubt that Mr Callaghan will make an issue that directly affects only a minority of the Kingdom one of confidence.

Among the Tories the strong pro-devolution lobby, already driven to resignations over shifts in policy, may well resist a three-line whip. The party in Scotland remains seriously divided, with leading Tories proposing a federal system for the entire United Kingdom and Mr Edward Taylor, the opposition spokesman for Scottish affairs, yielding only to the notion of an assembly of Scottish MPs meeting in Edinburgh.

Mrs Thatcher has strong doubts about the need for the assemblies in Scotland and

Wales, but more important is her central political aim of harrrying and bringing down the Government. The SNP might be tempted into opposing the two Bills if it thought there was a serious possibility of triggering a general election.

If devolution becomes an issue of confidence—and there is no suggestion that the Liberals will make that a condition of their support—the Government—there is less fear now of a general election among Labour MPs in Scotland. The party organization has perked up and the Government's recent performance on the industrial front has improved morale.

Moribund branches in the industrial west are said to be stirring to a more confident air, but the keenest anxiety remains for the young and the new town voters. The trend among them continues towards the SNP. Families who move away from the old tenements to the new towns on the edge of Glasgow often change their politics with their address, and it is the SNP who usually gains.

Labour Party workers feel that the Prime Minister's recent visit marked a turning point and say that in the most recent local by-elections the Labour Party had either held the seat, often with a sharply reduced majority, or held the seat. The annihilations of a year or more ago happen less often.

The nationalists have lost some of their early rapid momentum. They are concentrating on policies and maintaining the support of about a third of the Scottish vote. The latest opinion poll, published yesterday, put Labour in the lead with 36 per cent, Conservatives next with 30 per cent and the SNP third with 26 per cent.

The nationalists are not dismayed by the drop. The same decline has happened before between elections and few seriously believe that the party has peaked or that in a general election the Scottish vote would not be shared about equally among the three parties.

The SNP has built a lively organization and can claim to have achieved much for Scotland, but its aim of Scottish independence is unadorned. The difficulty will be to persuade Scots that that does not mean chaotic separation but merely a new constitutional arrangement with England.

In an inflation-ridden, deeply

Communists deplore Soviet lack of parties

By Annabel Ferriman

The Soviet Union was criticized for its lack of political parties at the Communist Party's national congress in London yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Roberts, delegate for the south-east Lewisham branch, London, said the Stalinist era illustrated clearly the need for a plurality of parties. Today the Soviet Union had 10,000 prisoners of conscience.

Although the German Democratic Republic was said to have five or six political parties they were all dominated by the Communist Party and could not be described as independent.

The 400 delegates were debating whether a socialist state should tolerate all democratic political parties, including those hostile to socialism, as suggested in the new draft of the party's programme, *The British Road to Socialism*.

The document, criticized by some members as "reformist" and "social democratic", suffered only one change at the hands of delegates. It will be voted on today, the last day of the congress.

An amendment to change the proposed policy of tolerating all democratic parties, including those opposed to socialism, was put forward by 15 districts. It was lost by more than 300 votes to 66.

Mr John Hoffman, East Midlands district, proposing the amendment, said that to insist on such a policy as party strategy would be "to go into battle with our hands tied behind us".

Democracy was the process that opened up the road to socialism. To speak of democratic parties hostile to socialism was a contradiction in terms.

Mr Francis Neerman, Essex University branch, SNP Anglia, complained that the policy would mean tolerating even the National Front. Non-socialist countries would help the hostile political parties to bring down a socialist government.

Only parties willing to work within the socialist constitution should be tolerated, he said. Revolution was meant to be an irrevocable step, and the party should ensure that it was.

Mr Baker, Wales district, opposing the amendment, said they could not expect a large section of the population to vote them into power if they were then to have all means of expressing their opinions cut off.

Fraternizing was conveyed to the conference by delegates from Chile, Cyprus, Israel and Palestine.

Declarations were passed condemning the "barbarous bombing" carried out by the Israeli war planes "last week", and supporting the firemen's justified demand "for an increase of 30 per cent basic".

CBI CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

Employers want pay reform talks with TUC and Government but big minority dissents

The Confederation of British Industry resolved yesterday at the opening day of its conference at Brighton to seek immediate talks with the Government and the TUC to undertake a sweeping reform of the method and timing of pay negotiations.

But the resolution was passed by a two-to-one majority, only after a barrage of calls for its rejection.

The CBI hopes to have a new system in place by early 1980, with fewer negotiating groups achieving synchronized settlements that fall due together in a short pay round. Settlements would be made on the basis of analysis by Government, unions and employers of what the nation can afford; the structure and timing of the Budget; and the national economic picture.

Mr John Methven, CBI director general, opening the pay debate, said: "What is decided here, if it leads to action, could transform the prospects of this nation. It could transform us from a negative, inward-looking nation into a positive, outward-looking nation, aligned to fit in with the overall plan."

Mr John Methven, CBI director general, opening the pay debate, said: "What is decided here, if it leads to action, could transform the prospects of this nation. It could transform us from a negative, inward-looking nation into a positive, outward-looking nation, aligned to fit in with the overall plan."

To see the defects of today's wages system one had only to look at the present pay round. "It is, by any stretch of the imagination, a sane or a sensible wage round," he said. "With power cuts? With a firemen's strike?"

"With half our home car market captured by European and Japanese car makers simply because we cannot produce? With the strike figures of last year everyone wondering whether the miners will be bought off, or will once more confront a government and possibly bring it down?"

It would take great determination from the Government, a strong will to do this, and far more moderation from unions if the Government's 10 per cent cap was to be maintained. Mr Methven commended the CBI conference document, which envisaged agreement with the TUC and Government on the basis of change by early next year, to be reinforced by the spring Budget to influence pay bargaining from next August.

During 1979 there would be talks between unions, employers and the Government on how much of the national economic picture should be taken into account when setting pay.

Mr Methven said that a short pay round could take place in the first three months of 1980. Mr Methven said there must be wider understanding of the facts of economic life. We do not want to create platforms on which ever-increasing pay settlements may be built. That is the dark danger of our current pay situation.

There was good reason, however, for believing that a great many people in this country longed for common sense and reason. The Government, to adopt sensible measures, must be able to understand the level of public spending and control monetary growth. Managers and employers would have to agree to a united and determined will to redress the balance of power away from the trade unions.

The "flight of talent" from Britain because of penal rates of taxation and because there is a number of speakers when the conference debated a resolution calling for big tax cuts as recommended in the CBI document, *Britain Means Business*.

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, also called for a period of rapid technical and economic change to provide management with the incentives and confidence to lead the way through the economic crisis.

The policy document says the CBI aims to reduce the tax burden by 5 per cent of gross domestic product over five years, equivalent to £6,000m at 1976-77 prices.

The highest rate of tax on personal income in Europe has prevented new small businesses from being formed and stunted the growth of existing ones.

The immediate problem in Britain is not lack of investment but the poor use made of it. Management must remedy over-investment.

A determined drive on improving efficiency could add to the output of those who did nothing but largely consume the results of their efforts.

Mr Alfred Gooding, chairman of A. J. Gooding Group, told the conference that he would like to see a realization of the top rates of taxation meant to be. They mean £15 to buy a pint of beer, £250 to buy a car, and you are looking at £10,000 worth of gear in a car.

Mr Michael Edwards, of British Shipbuilders, supporting the reduction of the top rate of tax to 50 per cent, said the penal rates were crippling the country.

He said the present tax rates damaged the economy and caused



Mr John Methven: 1980 target for new pay system.

next August. During 1979 there would be talks between unions, employers and the Government on how much of the national economic picture should be taken into account when setting pay.

Mr Methven said that a short pay round could take place in the first three months of 1980. Mr Methven said there must be wider understanding of the facts of economic life. We do not want to create platforms on which ever-increasing pay settlements may be built. That is the dark danger of our current pay situation.

There was good reason, however, for believing that a great many people in this country longed for common sense and reason. The Government, to adopt sensible measures, must be able to understand the level of public spending and control monetary growth. Managers and employers would have to agree to a united and determined will to redress the balance of power away from the trade unions.

The "flight of talent" from Britain because of penal rates of taxation and because there is a number of speakers when the conference debated a resolution calling for big tax cuts as recommended in the CBI document, *Britain Means Business*.

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, also called for a period of rapid technical and economic change to provide management with the incentives and confidence to lead the way through the economic crisis.

The policy document says the CBI aims to reduce the tax burden by 5 per cent of gross domestic product over five years, equivalent to £6,000m at 1976-77 prices.

The highest rate of tax on personal income in Europe has prevented new small businesses from being formed and stunted the growth of existing ones.

The immediate problem in Britain is not lack of investment but the poor use made of it. Management must remedy over-investment.

A determined drive on improving efficiency could add to the output of those who did nothing but largely consume the results of their efforts.

Mr Alfred Gooding, chairman of A. J. Gooding Group, told the conference that he would like to see a realization of the top rates of taxation meant to be. They mean £15 to buy a pint of beer, £250 to buy a car, and you are looking at £10,000 worth of gear in a car.

Mr Michael Edwards, of British Shipbuilders, supporting the reduction of the top rate of tax to 50 per cent, said the penal rates were crippling the country.

He said the present tax rates damaged the economy and caused

being driven overseas. "These people are still leaving in their thousands, not because there is more challenge overseas but because of the lack of after-tax reward in this country."

Mr David Davis, finance director of Garton, Sons and Co, said Britain might be approaching a "major crisis of capitalism" if the present system was not improved. "It is not the monopoly power of capital causing the decline but the monopoly power of some of the unions. It is not the lack of capital but the lack of capital in the hands of the bureaucrats. It is excessive taxation, not excessive taxation and, above all, excessive taxation, that are killing our industries."

The next downturn would be worse than the last and more businesses would go over the financial brink, many straight into the arms of the National Enterprise Board.

It is the CBI's primary duty to ensure that this situation never comes to pass.

Mr Richard Brierley, chairman of Z. Brierley Ltd, summing up the debate, said there was controversy over whether the top rates of taxation should be cut to 50 per cent or 50 per cent. He believed that anything over 50 per cent began to move into the realm of fantasy.

He promised that those resolutions seeking to amend the main motion would be put to the CBI council for careful consideration.

Talks with TUC expected in next few weeks

Continued from page 1

be seen to mean "what companies must afford". Mr Gerald Mortimer, deputy chairman of Consolidated Goldfields, said: "What we are seeking is a fair and equitable approach" and said such a "syndicalist approach" would be described as a "syndicalist approach".

Mr Fane Vernon, chairman and managing director of Ash and Sons, said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Mr Vernon said he was "wondering whether the miners would be bought off or whether they would be bought off."

Unanimous call for moderation on wages

Mr H. B. Greenborough, deputy president of the CBI, called for moderation in wages and salaries in his opening speech.

Mr Michael Feldman, director general, British Footwear Manufacturers Association, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr George Cattel, director-general, National Farmers Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases.

Mr Greenborough said that the white-collar wage and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was being blurred.

Mr Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said that the CBI was not a union but a confederation of British enterprise. We must show that we mean business.

He was proposing two resolutions, one carried with only one or two dissenting hands, urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy document, *Britain Means Business*.

مركز اى سي

In the absence of any serious competition, we've created our own.



The new Rover 2600

The new Rover 2300

The new Rover 3500 represents the most significant advance in motoring for years. It won all the 1976 and 1977 major awards for safety and design. A car in a class of its own.

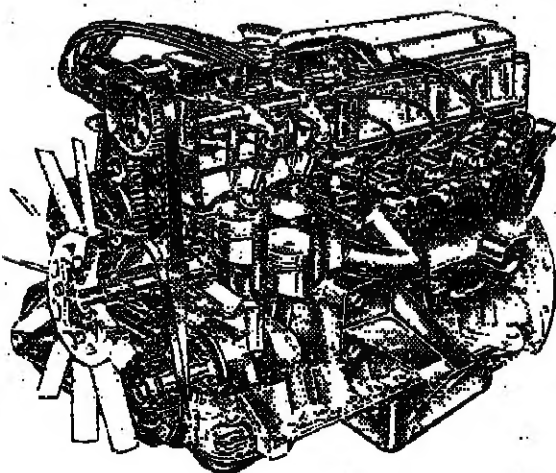
Until now.

Now, we announce its partners: the new Rover 2300 and the new Rover 2600.

And now you can enjoy the pleasures and privileges of Rover motoring at an even more reasonable price.

The new cars share the same, aerodynamic, fuel-conscious styling as the 3500. Inside, you'll find the same astounding roominess and high level of appointment.

And Rover's award-winning attention to safety is there, from overall design to smallest detail.



A new source of power.

Both the 2300 and 2600 engines feature overhead camshafts, aluminium alloy cylinder heads using a cross-flow, slant valve configuration, based on an Award winning design. The viscous-coupled cooling fan and the unique Inlet Air Temperature Control systems help to maximise the fuel economy of these quiet and efficient engines.

The new 2300 and 2600 both have completely new 6 cylinder in-line engines, rigorously tested over hundreds of hours and thousands of miles.

These powerful engines are matched with two new gearboxes, a 5-speed manual in the 2600, a 4-speed in the 2300, with an automatic option available on both.

Power delivered with economy: in the right hands, a 2600 manual should match Motor magazine's figures of 0-60 in 9 seconds, a top speed of 117.8 mph and a touring average of 27.8 mpg.*

The Rover 3500 opened a new world of motoring.

The new Rover 2300 and 2600 open that world a lot wider.

See them at your Rover showroom.

*Motor magazine. Car tested 2600 manual.

 **Rover** 
From Leyland Cars. With Supercover.

WEST EUROPE

Mr Callaghan favours new EEC applicants but insists on reforms

By George Clark Political Correspondent

In a speech devoted mainly to the prospects of the European Community, Mr Callaghan last night welcomed the applications from Greece, Portugal and Spain to join the EEC.

"We believe it will have the effect of buttressing democracy in those states, although they recognize, as we do, that the problems that will have to be solved will take some time," the Prime Minister said at the Lord Mayor's banquet.

"Our purpose in supporting their applications is to strengthen the representative character of the Community not to dilute or weaken it. Indeed, none of the changes which we wish to see will weaken the Community," he said.

Turning to the problems facing the EEC, he said that "in the common, as well as in the national interest, we seek a reform of the common agricultural policy."

The seas around Britain were a source of food and, for a significant but finite period, of energy. Therefore, a common energy policy should take full account of Britain's emphasis as a producer as well as of the interests of all member states as consumers.

Tackling the present dispute about fishing, Mr Callaghan said: "It also happens that about 60 per cent of all the fishery resources in the European Community are within the 200-mile limit around our islands."

"No common fisheries policy which does not take that factor

fully into account will be accepted as fair by our fishing industry, which is already suffering from its exclusion from similar 200-mile zones elsewhere."

Recalling that the ideal of a united Europe was born in the aftermath of two world wars, Mr Callaghan said that "with hindsight, we can see that perhaps the founding fathers were paying too much attention to the finished spire of the cathedral and too little to the foundations."

"Europe has never lacked for architects; but it may need more builders."

Although Mr Callaghan's speech charted the future course of the EEC, it was regarded as extremely significant by pro-European politicians that the Prime Minister made no mention of the Government's intention to direct elections to the European Parliament.

The target date is set for May or June next year, but even the most enthusiastic pro-European MPs now accept that Britain will not meet the deadline, and that Mr Callaghan wants to delay the European elections until after the British general election.

Turning to Britain, Mr Callaghan said that during the Year of Overseas Confidence in Britain had grown.

"There is a big job still to be done in reducing inflation, in increasing levels of productivity, in being more aggressive in overseas markets, in reducing unemployment."

"We have won some important battles against inflation and are well placed to win more."

"But the real victory will come when we achieve and maintain a steady and continuous period of growth in our economy, a much lower level of unemployment and steadier prices."



Reunion for Herr Palmers and his wife Gmilla in Vienna.

Kidnappers get £1.1m for Austrian

From Sue Masterman Vienna, Nov 14

The family of Herr Walter Michael Palmers, the 74-year-old Austrian textile magnate who was released early this morning by the kidnappers who had held him for four days, paid a ransom of 31m schillings (£1.1m). He was found by his son in an hotel here.

Herr Palmers, a multi-millionaire whose empire is built on a chain of lingerie stores and laundries, said after his release that he had been well

treated and that his kidnappers, said to be two or three men and a woman, were educated people with German rather than Austrian accents.

He had been held prisoner in a room 7ft by 4ft, probably in Vienna and not far from a tram stop. He had not been allowed to hear news bulletins but had been fed regularly.

Herr Palmers, who suffers from a mild heart complaint and who will be 75 next week but still works full time in his business, was said by his doctor to be reasonably fit despite slight shock.

The Palmers family, who negotiated his release with the kidnappers, said that they had received a letter stating conditions after they made a radio and television appeal on Friday. Later they had received a photograph as evidence that

Herr Palmers was still alive. The ransom is believed to have been handed over yesterday afternoon by a member of the family.

Austrian security services suspect that the kidnapping might be the work of an organization associated with the West German Red Army Faction terrorist group.

In contrast to the Dutch police, who are still treating the kidnapping in Amsterdam of Mr Maurits Caransa, the property magnate, as a purely criminal affair, the Austrians believe that factors such as the age of the people they are searching for, their German accents, their intelligence and the currencies in which they demanded payment could indicate that the terrorists have found a new way of raising funds.

Fresh start on Gibraltar in Strasbourg

From Ian Murray Paris, Nov 14

Talks about the future of Gibraltar are to be held in Strasbourg later this month between Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Ojea, the Spanish Foreign Minister, with representatives of Gibraltar present.

The meeting, which is seen as marking a fresh start after the long and rather acrimonious record of discussions on Gibraltar, will be on November 24.

The Gibraltarian representatives will be Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, and Mr Maurice Xiberras, Leader of the Opposition.

Ecologists could decide result of French poll

From Ian Murray Paris, Nov 14

France's ecological movement will make no electoral pacts with the main parties in the forthcoming elections. They decided at their conference in Mulhouse over the weekend that they would put up their own candidates wherever they could.

The ecologists expect to win about 3 per cent of the vote in the first round of the elections and if, as seems likely, polling between the main parties is very close, their supporters could be crucial to the result of the final round.

Their leaders said at the end of the conference that the parties of both the right and left represented a form of management of society which the movement wanted to change. It would be the job of their 100 or so candidates to put forward the ideas of that society and not to make any concessions to the parties. The "green candidates" will

be equipped for their campaign with a book which is to be published at the turn of the year setting out the ecological movement's ideas for a new society. The book will not set out ready-made answers to the problems of the world, but will seek to set out the arguments in a way that could lead to consultation to produce a solution.

The book will be in today's *Quotidien de Paris* predicts that the left will win most votes in the first round of the elections and that the Government majority will win most seats in the second round.

In the second round of the elections, however, the unpopularity of the Communist Party with other voters of the left would mean that in any coalition the Government party candidate could expect a significantly higher proportion of support from them. This would mean that Government candidates would often win seats where they were behind in the first round.

Spanish airport staff may strike again

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Nov 14

Spain's airports were back to normal today after a three-day strike by ground staff. But no pay agreement is in sight, which could mean another strike at the weekend.

The Government has rejected ground staff demands for minimum monthly take-home pay of £200, which exceeds the 22 per cent pay rise ceiling set by the Opposition and the Government in their economic pact last month.

Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, may, however, call an all-party meeting to discuss whether the pact in fact applies to the airport staff, who put in their claim several months before it came into force.

Brussels jail riot quelled

From Our Correspondent Brussels, Nov 14

Police stormed barracks and fired tear gas grenades on and a prison revolt here early today after about 140 prisoners rioted for 12 hours and set fire to mattresses, police sources said.

About 100 armed police rushed to the jail at St Gilles and surrounded the rioters, who were protesting about conditions in the nineteenth century prison and demanding reforms in the penal system.

Paris driving instructors stop the traffic

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Nov 14

Paris rush-hour traffic, never particularly fast moving, was brought to a standstill in many areas this morning by 850 driving school cars. The driving instructors were protesting against the difficulty in earning a living at present rates.

The 850 cars filtered into the traffic at seven of the main entrances to the city, and on some avenues in the sixteenth district and then crowded the Place des Invalides and school owners went to the Ministry of Prices to lodge their complaint. They want the hourly tariff of 60 francs (£5.75 to £6.93) to be raised to 80 francs.

Passengers flee fire on train

Freising, W Germany, Nov 14

A fire spread rapidly through a train carrying 200 passengers and 100 crew members on the Hella train today after it made an emergency stop at its journey from Dortmund to Munich.

Dozens of passengers escaped unhurt, Bavarian police said. The two carriages destroyed were owned by the Yugoslav state railway and a Greek carriage was damaged.

OVERSEAS

Egyptians succeed in delaying Arab summit until February

From Edward Mortimer Tunis, Nov 14

An Arab summit conference, the eighth of its kind, is to be held on February 15. This was the main decision of the three-day Arab foreign ministers' conference here.

The summit will be preceded by meetings of defence and economic ministers in the first half of January and then a further meeting of foreign ministers.

These decisions constitute a victory for Egypt which has been resisting pressure from some other Arab states, notably Syria and Libya, to hold an immediate summit to define Arab strategy in the present stage of the conflict with Israel.

Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, argued that to hold a summit without first making a careful study of the Arab world's present military and economic capabilities would result in the adoption of purely verbal positions without achieving anything in practice. Behind this argument lie Egyptian fears that a summit would be used to impose an over-riding Arab position and thus prevent any further progress towards a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Egyptian officials were outraged that Syria did not press the point, and emphasised that Mr Fahmy and his Syrian colleague, Mr Abdelhalim Khaddam, had presented a united front against an attack from the Iraqi Minister, Dr Saddam Hamadi, on the whole present strategy of seeking a peaceful settlement.

The Iraqi view is that a summit on strategy is fairly pointless so long as there are fundamental differences between the approaches of the various Arab states. By contrast, Iraq favours a summit on Arab economic co-operation and it was agreed that the possibility of holding one should be studied at the February summit.

The site of the summit has yet to be decided, Libya has offered Tripoli, but while most

delegations graciously accepted this invitation some said they would have to refer it to their home governments. In fact, it is thought very unlikely that King Hassan of Morocco, to name but one head of state, would wish to go to Libya, a country which has consistently advocated and several times attempted to overthrow his regime.

An alternative proposal which may ultimately find favour is to hold the summit at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo (like the one last year which formally ended the Lebanese war).

None the less, the fact that Tripoli has been discussed as a site is a sign of the much improved relations between Libya and its Arab neighbours, particularly Egypt and Sudan.

The foreign ministers of the three countries held a separate meeting during the conference at which it was agreed to restore diplomatic "and natural" relations between Sudan and Libya (severed last year after President Numeiry of Sudan blamed Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, for an attempt to overthrow him). It was also agreed that the heads of the Egyptian and Libyan "relations offices" (equivalent to embassies) in Tripoli and Cairo should return to their posts within two weeks.

The conference also agreed to condemn the Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon and other Israeli "infringements" of Lebanese sovereignty and called on the great powers and member states of the United Nations to take all measures to prevent Israel from making further such military incursions. But at the same time it called for the application of the Cairo and Sharm el-Sheikh agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization which among other things implies the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from southern Lebanon.

Khartoum, Nov 14.—Sudan and Libya today reestablished diplomatic relations, the Sudan news agency reported.—Reuter.

Dr Owen consults US on next Rhodesia step

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is consulting with Mr Richard Moore, assistant under-secretary at the State Department, and other American officials yesterday. Field Marshal Lord Carrar, the British Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, was also present.

They considered what to do next after the failure of British moves to arrange a meeting in Malta of Rhodesian military commanders and leaders of the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

Lusaka, Nov 14.—Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, said today that the Anglo-American settlement plan had failed and indicated that he would push for a direct handover of power to the guerrilla forces of the Front.

He said Mr Smith was responsible for the setback over the Moka talks.—Reuter.

Dar es Salaam, Nov 14.—Two Rhodesian jet fighters and a helicopter were shot down yesterday in an air attack on Mapai, in Mozambique's Gaza province, the Mozambique information agency said.

The report was denied in Salisbury by a Rhodesian military spokesman.—UPI.

Angola plot denied: In Brussels, a spokesman for General Alexander Haig, Commander of Nato in Europe, dismissed as "ridiculous" a Tass allegation that he had plotted with South Africa to overthrow the Angolan government.

Tass said in Moscow today that secret plans for subversive operations had been made at a meeting in Zurich in July, 1975. The meeting was attended by Dr Kissinger, then United States Secretary of State, General Haig and Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister.

The agreement provided for the establishment in Namibia and Rhodesia of governments friendly to the United States to be followed by "destabilising military operations" against the Angolan Government, Tass said. It gave no sources for its report.—AP and Reuter.

Manila hotel fire fanned by typhoon claims 44 lives

Manila, Nov 14.—Fire swept through a leading Manila hotel during a typhoon today killing at least 44 people, officials reported. Several of the dead were foreign tourists who were rescued from the roof of the seven-storey Phipps hotel overlooking Manila Bay.

Police were investigating reports that the fire was started by a crash hit by a German couple in a fifth-floor room after a power blackout hit the hotel, occupied at the time by more than 200 people.

But Mr William Oliver, of California, said power was on at the time and that he used a lift to escape.

Most of the victims were apparently trapped by the flames. Some survivors said they had seen the fire exit doors locked and they escaped through the stairways.

The typhoon apparently whipped up the flames which soon leapt to the sixth and seventh floors and spread to an adjacent nine-storey annex.

Several people died when they leapt through their windows or from ledges.

Police said many bodies were recovered from the roof, especially the ninth floor of the hotel annex, where one room alone reportedly yielded 10 bodies. Some victims were found in bedrooms.

Typhoon Kim, with gusts of up to 127 mph, pounded the Philippines' main island of Luzon last night and this morning leaving a girl dead and 10,000 people homeless, officials reported.

Among the homeless were 300 families whose houses were swamped by tidal waves in the Camarines Norte province, 140 miles south-west.

Weekend cyclone: South-eastern India was hit by a cyclone and torrential rains over the weekend claiming at least 350 lives.—Agence France-Press, AP and Reuter.

Grand old New York store's final reductions

From Michael Leapman New York, Nov 14

Special sales, offering absolutely final reductions, are now being held in the frenzied field of New York retailing. However, one which starts on Thursday will have particularly poignant significance in the absolutely final closing-down sale of Abercrombie and Fitch, the fashion and sporting goods store with the elegant dark brown facade on Madison Avenue, which has been part of high-style Manhattan living for 85 years.

Last year, after more than a decade of difficulty, the chain of nine Abercrombie stores filed for bankruptcy. In the period since then, attempts have been made to shore up the organization. They came to nothing when the First National Bank of Chicago, in which the firm already owed \$5m (£2.3m), refused to lend the extra \$2m needed to tide things over until Christmas.

Five of the group's nine stores across the country have closed in the last fortnight, the remaining four will start their closing-down sales this week, and should be out of business by the end of the year. The Madison Avenue store, built for the company in 1917, will be sold.

A feature of the Madison Avenue building is a clock face on the top floor in which Mr Ezra Fitch, one of the founders, used to live. It reflects the world of the American outdoors and its well-heeled sporting enthusiasts for which the store once so successfully catered.

Its former customers include some of America's most notable men. President Roosevelt went there for equipment to take on safari and at least three other Presidents—Wilson, Eisenhower and Kennedy—were known to have shopped there for rifles. Herbert Hoover bought fishing gear there and Ernest Hemingway conducted his last hunting trip there, equipped and equipped by Abercrombie and Fitch. Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart wrapped up warm for their early aviation feats in gear bought from the store.

It soon broadened its range to include clothing which sportsmen and women could sport when engaged in less bought fishing gear there and heavy tweed suits and cashmere sweaters—mostly from Britain—and those highly-polished brown brogues which wealthy Americans wear in their all-male mock-sports clubs.

In the last decade, though, New York retailing has been altered by the arrival of heavily competitive cut-price stores selling much the same goods as the older department stores. At the same time hunting, shooting and fishing have ceased to become elitist pastimes.

Hundreds and thousands of Americans now take to the woods and streams with their guns and rods, but they do not buy them in Madison Avenue. They get them in huge discount department stores in the shopping centres.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise were dedication, cordial and knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a purchaser's requirements with depth and insight. The salesmen's cars are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

Britain disputes EEC view on duration of fish pact

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Nov 14

British and Irish sources denied today that an EEC agreement under which member states may take temporary national measures to control fishing in their waters will expire at the end of the year. That is the claim of both the EEC partners and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner responsible for fisheries.

Mr Sittin, the Minister of Agriculture, considers that the agreement, concluded in October of last year in The Hague, will remain in force until the

Nine agree on how they are to exploit and share out the fish stocks in their new 200-mile limits.

Although the key paragraph of agreement refers to "the year 1977", there seems to be some room for legal dispute as to whether this means it is only valid for that year.

If Britain's partners refuse to renew The Hague provisions at the end of the year, and Britain is unable to accept the terms of a common fisheries policy, the Government would have little choice but to impose national control over its 200-mile zone.

Wine growers and dealers combine to ward off excessive price increases Small but choice Bordeaux harvest

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Nov 14

This year's harvest in the vineyards of Bordeaux is one of the smallest since 1946—less than half a normal harvest and a third of the exceptionally big one of 1976. But thanks to an unusually sunny autumn, it is of high quality.

This combination of penury and quality should normally have produced a flare-up of prices, if the past pattern held good.

But things have changed in the Bordeaux. The wine trade has forsworn speculation and decided to discipline itself. The "contract of Bordeaux", endorsed by both growers and dealers, which laid down guidelines for the fixing of prices, has proved a success story. Paul Glotin, the president of the Council of Bordeaux Wines, grouping growers, brokers, and dealers, has told the press.

Between 1970 and 1975, this fluctuation in prices was responsible for the great Bordeaux wine crisis. Everyone wanted Bordeaux, and there was not enough to go round. Wines from other regions were then surreptitiously baptised "Bordeaux". Wines were bought up purely for speculation. Prices doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled in a few weeks. International groups joined in the fray.

Then came the record harvest of 1973, the oil crisis, the scandal of the Cruise firm, one of the most venerable of the celebrated Quai des Chartrons, the aristocracy of the wine

trade, and the bottom fell out of the market.

Dealers found themselves with their cellars full of wine bought at three to four times the prices it would fetch in 1975, and many had to sell their stock at a crippling loss. The strongest ones survived. The lesser breed were eliminated.

The growers, who had renounced their châteaux and houses, heavily invested in new equipment, and extended their acreage, were up to their ears in debt. The gulp in Bordeaux a couple of years ago was that 90 per cent of the Bordeaux vineyards belonged to the Cédric Agricole and 90 per cent of the trade to other banks.

The crisis provoked a social and psychological revolution in Bordeaux, the proud dynasties of a Château were toppled from their eminence, and the plain wine dealers took over.

One of them, M Jean-Paul Jauffret, was even elected president of the Council of Bordeaux wines and started a series of reforms which led in 1975, and a return of the ordinance of the "contract of Bordeaux".

It was not easy in a profession riddled with individualism, distrust, and petty rivalries, to organize the greater part of 10,000 growers, and 400 dealers, who handle 40 Appellations d'origine, and the 3,000 odd châteaux wines, many no more than trade marks. But a limited harvest of good quality in 1975, and a return of favour to Bordeaux in the eyes of French and foreign customers, helped to heal the wounds.

M Glotin emphasized that the new mechanisms to regulate the market had for two years been faced with penury and stood the test well. Their mainstay was the fixing of floor and ceiling prices decided each year by negotiation between growers and dealers, for the new harvest. This affected five main groups of generic Bordeaux, accounting for three-quarters of the total production.

This year, the average agreed for 1976 and 1977 Bordeaux and Bordeaux des côtes wines is 3,500 francs (£402) the barrel of 900 litres, the variation allowed being 10 per cent more or less. This means an increase of 40 per cent in price, spread over two years, in relation to the 1976 harvest.

For the consumer, it should mean an average price of 5 francs a bottle, compared to 6.50 francs last year—or an increase of 25 per cent, also spread over two years.

M Glotin said that the stocks on hand of some 4,000,000 hectolitres, about the equivalent of a normal year's harvest, would make it possible to supply the market normally, in spite of this year's shortfall, and check some tendencies to a price flare-up.

He expected the agreed prices to be held. But the real test would come next spring when it would be possible to tell whether a normal harvest was in sight for the autumn of 1978, and new ceiling prices would be fixed.

clear energy programme, designed to produce the extra power which West Germany's colossal industrial machine will need in the 1980s. The programme is at present partially paralysed by court actions by the country's flourishing environmentalist pressure groups.

Until recently the bulk of the party appeared to be in favour of holding up the programme at least until the first building licence for a nuclear waste reprocessing and storage plant in Lower Saxony could be issued. This is expected to take at least three years.

On the other hand, Herr Schmidt made it clear that it was his responsibility to continue the Government's policy

Spanish airport staff may strike again

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Nov 14

Spain's airports were back to normal today after a three-day strike by ground staff. But no pay agreement is in sight, which could mean another strike at the weekend.

The Government has rejected ground staff demands for minimum monthly take-home pay of £200, which exceeds the 22 per cent pay rise ceiling set by the Opposition and the Government in their economic pact last month.

Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, may, however, call an all-party meeting to discuss whether the pact in fact applies to the airport staff, who put in their claim several months before it came into force.

Brussels jail riot quelled

OVERSEAS

Couplot
behind
Ethiopian's
execution

Djibouti, Nov 14.—The execution on Saturday of Ethiopia's head of state was apparently carried out because he was planning a coup to overthrow the military council, the Dergue, was planning to overthrow the military council, the head of state, with the support of the 80-man council and a number of army units hostile to Colonel Mengistu's radical policies.

They said Lieutenant-Colonel Atanfu Abate, vice-chairman of the ruling military council, the Dergue, was planning to overthrow the military council, the head of state, with the support of the 80-man council and a number of army units hostile to Colonel Mengistu's radical policies.

Reports of increasing hostility between the two colonels, who took supreme power in a gun battle at the Dergue headquarters in Addis Ababa in February, have persistently filtered across the border into Djibouti in recent weeks.

Colonel Atanfu moved his office earlier this year to the headquarters of the army's fourth division, whose responsibility is to defend the capital. He was attached to the division for 14 years and was considered its political leader.

Political observers here said traditional ethnic hostilities also played a part in the growing enmity between the two colonels. Colonel Atanfu is a member of the Amharic ethnic group which has dominated Ethiopia in recent centuries.

Colonel Mengistu is a Walama, a clan of the Galla group which is the biggest in the country numerically but which joined the ancient empire relatively late and often provided a buffer for Amharic landlords.—Reuters

Nairobi, Nov 14.—The long list of counter-revolutionary crimes attributed to Colonel Atanfu was thought by diplomatic observers to be a prelude to another extensive purge.

Addis Ababa radio said yesterday that the "military bourgeois class" would be purged and there was a historical obligation to use the sword to wipe out the enemies of the revolution.

The list of Colonel Atanfu's "crimes" suggested that the scope for finding people guilty of opposing the march of the revolution was very wide.

The official text carried in today's Ethiopian newspapers denounced him for wanting to slow the revolutionary process.

Other wrong-doings included being in touch with the enemies of the revolution, including CIA agents, opposing sweeping land reform, conducting himself with "a feudal arrogance", advocating a military dictatorship, suggesting reconciliation with political prisoners so they could be freed and recruited to form a revolutionary party.

Street demonstrations were staged throughout Somalia in support of President Siad Barre's decision to expel thousands of Soviet advisers and close their military facilities because of Russian support for Ethiopia, Mogadishu radio, monitored in Nairobi, said.

At night, the Somali Government accused the Russians of "brazen interference" in the Horn of Africa, it said. "Relations with the Soviet Union of the allied presence of Cuban troops in the Ethiopian side of the war in the Ogaden territory."—Reuters and UPI.

Leading article, page 15

Prince's
'embarrassed'

Alice Springs, Australia, Nov 14.—The Australian housewife whose cooking left Prince Charles bedridden with food poisoning described the incident today as the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to her.

Health officials said 30 of the 140 guests at the lunch here last Thursday were suffering from food poisoning. Five were in hospital. Mrs. Charles, 45, who runs a private catering firm, said: "I have cooked for Prince Philip, Lord Snowdon and the American Ambassador. Never has anything like this happened before."—Reuters.



Mrs Biko's widow Mrs Ntsikie Biko, right, and his mother before the start of the inquest yesterday.

Biko attacked his interrogators, inquest told

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 14

Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, had to be overpowered when he attacked the security police during an interrogation, Major Harold Snyman of the Port Elizabeth security police alleged here today.

After a struggle lasting several minutes Mr Biko was placed in handcuffs and leg-irons and locked around a metal grill, he said.

Colonel Snyman was giving evidence during the opening day of the inquest into the death of Mr Biko. The court heard that shortly before his death in police custody on September 11 and was then briefly placed in the floor of his cell with foam around his mouth. He was breathing rapidly and had a glazed look in his eyes.

The court was also told that Mr Biko was kept naked in his cell for most of the time except when he was being interrogated by the security police. Several police witnesses said Mr Biko refused most food that was put in front of him although there were signs that he did eat some bread and drink some coffee.

The inquest began at 10 am at Pretoria's Old Synagogue which had previously been used for a number of black political trials. Long before the proceedings started the court was packed with a crowd of onlookers, most of them African, and with a large number of foreign and local pressmen. Prominent among those present were Mr Biko's widow, Mrs Ntsikie Biko, and other members of his family, all of them dressed in black.

Just before Mr M. J. Prins, the Transvaal Chief Magistrate, who is presiding over the case, entered the court one of the spectators, Mrs Winnie Kgwere, stood up and held aloft a portrait of Mr Biko and a wreath.

Later Mrs Kgwere, who was the first president of the Black People's Convention (BPC), one of the black consciousness organizations which was banned last month, led a large group of Africans standing around the court room steps in freedom songs.

The court was told that Mr Biko was detained with a Coloured (mixed race) colleague, Mr Peter Jones, in Grahamstown on August 18. He was later moved to Walmer police station near where he was held until September 6 when he was taken to the security police headquarters in Port Elizabeth for interrogation. He stayed there until September 11 and was then briefly moved back to Walmer police station before being taken by road in a Land-Rover to Pretoria where he died the following day.

According to the autopsy report which was laid before the court today Mr Biko died as a result of head injuries. The report said there was "extensive brain injury of the coup type and an abrasion on the left forehead". As a result of the brain injury centraliza-

tion of the blood circulation had taken place to such a degree that it was complicated by disseminated intravascular blood coagulation as well as acute kidney failure and uraemia. There were also other injuries to the left chest wall as well as skin abrasions.

Under cross-examination by Mr Sydney Kenridge, representing the Biko family, Major Snyman denied that Mr Biko had been assaulted while he was interrogating him. He said he noticed no external marks on the deceased's forehead. He had no idea how a bruise above Mr Biko's left eye, shown in one of a number of photographs which have been produced as evidence, had been sustained.

Major Snyman told the court how Mr Biko had launched a "wild attack" on himself and other security policemen during the second day of his interrogation at security police headquarters.

Mr Biko, he said, had adopted an aggressive attitude towards his interrogators and refused to answer questions. Suddenly he jumped from his chair with a "wild expression in his eyes" and threw the chair at Major Snyman. It missed. Then with clenched fists Mr Biko charged another security policeman, hit at him and pinned him against a steel filing cabinet, Major Snyman added.

Major Snyman then said he saw another colleague run to give assistance. During the struggle that ensued Mr Biko and the police officers knocked

against the tables in the offices. Eventually with the help of the two other policemen, Mr Biko was overpowered and placed in handcuffs and leg-irons.

Major Snyman insisted that the desire of force used to bring Mr Biko under control had been "reasonable".

The following day Mr Biko was taken to the District Police Commissioner, Major Gonson, and a district surgeon, Dr Lang. Major Snyman said Mr Biko still had a "wild expression in his eyes" and refused offers of food and drink. He refused to answer any more questions and Major Snyman decided not to continue the interrogation. He noticed that Mr Biko was incoherent.

Asked by Mr Kenridge why Mr Biko had been placed in leg-irons from the moment he had arrived at security police headquarters, Major Snyman said this had been normal practice for the past few years following attempts by detainees to commit suicide. Many of the African in court whistled when the leg-irons were exhibited.

Several police witnesses who testified today insisted that Mr Biko had never complained about being assaulted or injured and knew of no incidents of mistreatment.

Sergeant van Vuuren added that Mr Biko appeared to eat nothing from the day he was placed in the cells on August 18, although he may have taken some bread and water.

The inquest continues tomorrow.

against the tables in the offices. Eventually with the help of the two other policemen, Mr Biko was overpowered and placed in handcuffs and leg-irons.

Major Snyman insisted that the desire of force used to bring Mr Biko under control had been "reasonable".

The following day Mr Biko was taken to the District Police Commissioner, Major Gonson, and a district surgeon, Dr Lang. Major Snyman said Mr Biko still had a "wild expression in his eyes" and refused offers of food and drink. He refused to answer any more questions and Major Snyman decided not to continue the interrogation. He noticed that Mr Biko was incoherent.

Asked by Mr Kenridge why Mr Biko had been placed in leg-irons from the moment he had arrived at security police headquarters, Major Snyman said this had been normal practice for the past few years following attempts by detainees to commit suicide. Many of the African in court whistled when the leg-irons were exhibited.

Several police witnesses who testified today insisted that Mr Biko had never complained about being assaulted or injured and knew of no incidents of mistreatment.

Sergeant van Vuuren added that Mr Biko appeared to eat nothing from the day he was placed in the cells on August 18, although he may have taken some bread and water.

The inquest continues tomorrow.

Secure boundaries become important Greek election issue

Right wing challenges Karamanlis majority

From Maito Modiano
Alexandropolis
Western Thrace, Nov 14

What kind of government do the Greeks expect to have after Sunday's general election? Not far from here the river Evros marks the boundaries with Turkey and Bulgaria. Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, said in the three constituencies of Xanthi, Liodope and Evros—old me: "We shall be a Greek voter living within a few miles from the frontiers, the first thing you vote for is a government able to safeguard your security."

In the last election, a quarter of a million voters of Western Thrace, gave the ruling New Democracy party of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, eight of the 12 seats in the three constituencies of Xanthi, Liodope and Evros—old me: "We shall be a Greek voter living within a few miles from the frontiers, the first thing you vote for is a government able to safeguard your security."

This time the competition from the other parties is stiffer and the modified electoral system can be less generous. Nevertheless, few here doubt that Mr Karamanlis will be given a new mandate, even if they are less certain about his party's overall strength in Parliament.

There is a growing feeling that in some areas the right-

wing National Rally may win the odd seat. This party advocates the restoration of the monarchy, an amnesty for the junta and strict anti-communist policies.

In 1974 a similar effort by the right failed and that party polled barely 1 per cent of the vote. This time the bitter memories of the dictatorship are fading and the National Rally has put forward as candidates a number of former deputies with a local appeal who were jilted by the New Democracy because of associations with the junta.

The Rally's chances are also enhanced as the other opposition parties are reluctant to help Mr Karamanlis to defeat his right-wing rival. One National Rally candidate in Thessalonika said: "We shall be delighted if the National Rally takes votes away from Karamanlis."

The National Rally appears to have better chances in Thrace because of the presence of a large military vote in these frontier districts, and of the 120,000-strong Muslim minority which tends to have unreserved voting preferences.

For instance, Liodope, where the bulk of the Muslims live, was the only constituency,

beside the traditionally royalist Lakonia in the south, to give a majority to the King in the 1974 referendum.

The local Greeks mistrust the Muslim majority even though relations at personal level are normal. They are convinced that the Muslims—even those who are instructed by Ankara which, they believe, tries to alienate the minority from the Greeks in order to create pretexts to support future claims of oppression.

In Komotini, the capital of Rodope, two out of the four National Rally candidates are Muslims. One of them said that he was running on a platform demanding equal rights for the minority, especially on matters of real property ownership. There are no complaints about civil rights.

Despite all this, the estimates of what support the National Rally should expect throughout the country, range between 2 and 10 per cent of the total. Few of the impartial pundits go above 5 per cent.

This 5 per cent can still hurt Mr Karamanlis as his party is likely to lose disconnected voters also on its left. However, psephologists insist that the New Democracy can lose 10 points or more of the 54.4

per cent it polled in 1974, without losing its parliamentary majority.

Against this background, and hearing surprise, none of the six parties in opposition to Mr Karamanlis can credibly offer an alternative government. Many influential Greeks, however, especially here in the north, would like to see Mr Karamanlis' broadening the base of his government by setting up a coalition with Mr George Mavros' Democratic Centre Union, the main opposition party.

This possibility is known to have preoccupied Mr Karamanlis. Some say that this is the reason for his having included at the head of his party's state candidates list the name of Mr Panayotis Kanellopoulos, the widely respected former Prime Minister.

The same people are already forecasting that Mr Karamanlis, after solving some of the main foreign issues with a broadened parliamentary base, may stand for the presidency of the Republic. He would then appoint as his successor Mr Kanellopoulos, who has a good record of cooperation with Mr Mavros since the days of their joint opposition to the dictatorship.

'Think tank' hearings begin today

By Roger Bertboud

Sir Michael Palister, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mr Curtis Keeble, the Chief Clerk (head of administration) there, will be the main witnesses today when a House of Commons committee begins a series of public hearings on last summer's controversial report by the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS) on Britain's overseas representation.

Among the more drastic recommendations of the "think tank" report were the creation of a Foreign Service Group to replace the diplomatic service, taking over most of its work and some of that of the Ministry of Overseas Development, and the external trade side of the Department of Trade; the abolition of the British Council; and drastic cuts in the BBC's external broadcasting. Public reaction was so intense that the Commons inquiry is being conducted by the nine Conservative, four Labour, four Liberal, and four Conservative members of the Commons public expenditure committee.

The only member of detectable left-wing views, Dr Laurie Miller (Labour MP for East Kilbride), the chairman is 70-year-old Conservative backbencher, Sir Harold Har-

risson, member for Eye, Suffolk. He will be attending a funeral today and will be replaced in the chair by Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Conservative MP for Hampstead).

The main aim of the committee will be to winnow some of the wheat from the more outrageous chaff of the CPRS report, and to make its own contribution to any eventual Government decision on the implementation of parts of the report.

So far a special Cabinet committee, with the Prime Minister in the chair, has considered the broad outlines of the report at only one meeting. There is also a roughly matching committee consisting of the permanent secretaries of the affected departments, which include Trade, the Treasury and the Civil Service Department.

The government has given no clues about its own attitude to the report, nor about when it would aim to take any decision on it. Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to give evidence some time in January, but the hearings may not end until March.

It is probable that Dr Owen would not want to make recommendations that would be overturned by the Cabinet; and that Foreign Office officials will not want to preempt their own minister. On the other hand, Sir Michael Palister can be forth-

right as well as polished. Today's questions are likely to concentrate on such factual matters as the extent of cross-fertilization between the Foreign Office and home civil service departments (which the report felt should be increased), and the existing practice in the export promotion field. Expenditure on the Foreign Office's critics, may also be looked at.

A good deal of written evidence has already been submitted to the subcommittee by the main departments and organizations affected by the report. Later witnesses are expected to include Sir Kenneth Berrill, head of the CPRS; Mr Ian Trethowan, Director-General of the BBC; Mr Gerard Mansell, Managing Director, External Broadcasting; and Sir John Llewellyn, director-general of the British Council, as well as representatives of such organizations as the Confederation of British Industry.

One of the main difficulties of the MPs is likely to be to salvage some of the CPRS's sounder recommendations from the radical ones which have aroused such intense opposition both at home and abroad. Existing procedures make it virtually impossible to question junior officials whose views might be closer to those of the think tank than their superiors.

China says its transport
is lagging far behind

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong, Nov 14

China has admitted that it is extremely backward in transport facilities and must remedy this situation speedily in the interests of modernization.

The Peking People's Daily wrote: "The gap between us and many countries is still very great. There is not even one express highway in the whole country."

It said existing means of communication were still very backward in comparison with the advanced level already reached in the world. "In marine transport, the scale of our country's fleet, port development, the regulation of waterways and the level of technical installations are also very backward."

The Yangtze is one of the five main rivers of the world and its basin is rich in produce. However, the volume

of cargo now handled by the trunk line or through the whole system is still relatively small.

China suffers from an unfortunate geography, in which the main lines of north-south transport are crossed by rivers and mountains. There is no national road network, although there are plenty of good metalled roads around the larger towns.

Railways are mostly single track and the rivers are still an important means of internal transport. The civil aviation fleet is small and used mostly for passenger transport. The seaports are notorious for their congestion, which results in Chinese-chartered vessels often waiting weeks to be unloaded.

The paper concluded: "We should see that our country's present means of communication and transport are still only at the level of the industrialized advanced countries in the 1950s."

Crocodile snatchers

Johore Baru, Malaysia, Nov 14.—Thieves raided a crocodile farm near here and got away with 113 baby crocodiles worth about \$6,000 (£3,200). Singapore does a thriving trade in exporting crocodile skins.

Congo clampdown

Brazzaville, Nov 14.—In a clampdown on corruption and maladministration in Congo, it was announced that a state administrator has been accused of embezzling the equivalent of \$4,000 of public funds.

Law Report November 14 1977

Lords refuse to alter 1966 decision

Fitzleat Estates Ltd and Others v Cherry (Inspector of Taxes) Before Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Salmon, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Keith of Kiloise

[Speeches delivered November 9] The House of Lords unanimously refused to consider reversing its own majority decision in a Revenue case—Chancery Lane Safe Deposit & Offices Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners (1968) AC 413—that a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leave" appeal pursuant to a certificate granted by His Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by which a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment as notional made out of income.

interest and any dividend paid in that year. The appellant company was not entitled to challenge directly the Chancery Lane case.

The appeal came direct to the House from the High Court and the Lords were invited to depart from the earlier decision in accordance with the Practice Statement (Judicial Precedent) (1968) 1 WLR 1234 [which was cited in the House of Lords regarded the use of precedent as an indispensable foundation on which to decide what the law was and its application to individual cases. It recognized that too rigid adherence to precedent might lead to injustice in a particular case and also unduly restrict the proper development of the law; and that it proposed in future to modify its present practice and, while retaining its decisions of the House as normally binding, to depart from a previous decision when it appeared right to do so in the interests of justice. In mind the danger of disturbing retrospectively the basis on which contracts, settlements of property and fiscal arrangements had been entered into and also the special need for certainty as to the criminal law.]

Two points were clear. 1. Though Mr Bates had developed his argument with freshness and vigour, no contention was advanced that the decision of the House in 1966 was not binding on the House in 1977. The very full report of the arguments in the House at that occasion left no doubt as to that. The desperate argument of per incuriam was certainly not available.

2. There had been no change of circumstances such as would call for a review of the House's 1966 decision. The fact, if it were so, that the 1966 decision worked hardly on property companies was not such a change of circumstance.

There was therefore nothing left for the company but to contend as counsel for it did—that the decision was wrong. That meant that three or more of their Lordships must in the view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

Lordships' firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow now to create a new and better view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

House of Lords

as compared with those who charged their medical patients to revenue, or perhaps more accurately, did not decide to capitalize them, was unjust or economically unsound. But the remedy for that did not lie with their Lordships. It was for the Revenue, not merely to set on its victims, but to consider the broad merits or otherwise of the result, after such representations as the affected taxpayers might make. Their Lordships suggested that their Lordships had a alternative to dismiss the appeal.

VISCOUNT DILHORNE, concurring, said that before the Chancery Lane decision, the consequences of the capitalization of interest payments might not have been appreciated. Since that decision companies had been free, as they were before 1966, to decide whether or not to capitalize. If they did, there was the certainty that they would have to account to the Revenue for the tax deducted. It was not by a considerable extension of what was intended in 1966 if the House were now to entertain the present application and to consider the desirability of which was stressed in the speech of Lordships which his Lordship and Lord Wilberforce were parties.

LORD SALMON agreed with the speech of Lord Dilhorne. He said that while the Practice Statement of 1966 was not intended to depart from the rigid rule of precedent previously prevailing, it also recognized that departing from an earlier decision on the whole merits of its being wrong was not of itself always justified. Some had found that the decision in 1966 was not a revolutionary change, but Lord Keith, R. v National Insurance Commission, [1977] AC 681, [1977] AC 944, 966.

The appellant company sought the complete reversal of the Chancery Lane decision only 11 years ago on no grounds other than that it was wrong. It did not urge that the decision was wrong, but that it was wrong in the view which in 1966 appeared to the majority.

LORD EDWARD DAVIES said that while the Practice Statement of 1966 was not intended to depart from the rigid rule of precedent previously prevailing, it also recognized that departing from an earlier decision on the whole merits of its being wrong was not of itself always justified. Some had found that the decision in 1966 was not a revolutionary change, but Lord Keith, R. v National Insurance Commission, [1977] AC 681, [1977] AC 944, 966.

The appellant company sought the complete reversal of the Chancery Lane decision only 11 years ago on no grounds other than that it was wrong. It did not urge that the

Edinburgh Office: Michael Clayton,
5 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh EH3 6DH.
Tel. (031) 225 4757.

York Office: Nicholas Brooksbank,
46 Bonnam, York YO3 7BZ.
Tel. (0904) 30911.

North-West Office: Henry Bowling,
Walspurg, Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria.
Tel. Barbon 337.

West Midlands Office: Michael Thompson,
Stanley Hall, Birmngham, Strophshire.
Tel. Birmngham 517.

West Country Office: Richard de Paet,
Monmouth Lodge, Yeazton, Templecombe, Somerset.
Tel. (09637) 518.

Irish Office: Desmond Fitz-Gerald,
The Knight of Glin, Glin Castle, Glin, Co. Limerick.
Tel. Gln 44,
49 Pembroke Road, Dublin 2.
Tel. Dublin 683281.

Salerooms and Antiques

Sotheby's

FOUNDED 1844

SOTHEY PARKE BERNET & CO.,
34-35 NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON W1A 2AA. TEL: (01) 493 8080

Tuesday 15th November at 10.30 am
ORIENTAL CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART
Cat. (4 plates) 35p

Tuesday 15th November at 11 am
VALUABLE PRINTED BOOKS FROM THE
BROXBOROUGH LIBRARY ILLUSTRATING
THE SPREAD OF PRINTING
the first portion: Abbville-Lyons
the property of John Ehrman, Esq.
Cat. (90 illustrations, 1 in colour) £3

Wednesday 16th November at 11 am
MODERN BRITISH DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS
AND SCULPTURE
including the property of Sir John Gielgud and
Edmund de Rothschild, Esq.
Cat. (106 illustrations, 15 in colour) £2-65

Thursday 17th November at 10.30 am
IMPORTANT OLD MASTER ENGRAVINGS,
ETCHINGS AND WOODCUTS
Cat. (51 illustrations) £3-15

Thursday 17th November at 2.30 pm
IMPORTANT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Cat. (83 illustrations, 12 in colour) £3-35

Friday 18th November at 11 am
ENGLISH FURNITURE, TEA CADDIES, TEXTILES
AND ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS
including the property of Lady Inglis and the late
the Hon. Lady Berkeley sold by Order of her Executors
Cat. (52 illustrations, 1 in colour) £1-40

Monday 21st November at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
ANTIQUITIES, ISLAMIC, TIBETAN, NEPALESE,
INDIAN, SOUTH-EAST ASIAN AND TRIBAL ART
including the property of Mrs. Stella Pin-Rivers,
from the Pin-Rivers Museum, Dorset. Cat. 65p

Monday 21st November and following day at 11 am
PRINTED BOOKS RELATING TO
CATHOLIC HISTORY AND SCIENCE
including the property of the Rt. Hon. Viscount
Brookeborough, P.C., The Royal Artillery Institution
and The Geological Society.
Cat. (6 plates, 1 in colour) £1-65

Tuesday 22nd November at 11 am
A Lady's Bristol Sausageboat, c.1790, 21 cent.

Tuesday 22nd November at 11 am
GOOD ENGLISH POTTERY, PORCELAIN AND
ENAMELS Cat. (59 illustrations, 1 in colour) £1-40

Tuesday 22nd November at 2 pm
and following day at 10.30 am
MILITARY AND NAVAL CAMPAIGN MEDALS
from the Collection of the late Charles Lovell, M.B.E.
First Part
Cat. (2 plates) £1

SOTHEY'S BELGRAVIA,
19 MOTCOMB STREET,
LONDON SW1A 1RL. TEL: (01) 235 4311

Wednesday 16th November at 11 am
ENGLISH FURNITURE, BRONZES, WORKS OF
ART, CLOCKS AND WATCHES
Cat. (89 illustrations, 2 in colour) £1

Thursday 17th November at 10.30 am
ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SILVER, PLATED
WARES AND OBJECTS OF VERTU FROM 1837
Cat. (31 illustrations) 40p

Friday 18th November at 11 am and 2.30 pm
PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND RELATED
MATERIAL Cat. (108 illustrations, 2 in colour) £1-30

Monday 21st November at 11 am
PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND OTHER
MATERIAL FROM THE BEATON STUDIO
Cat. (192 illustrations) £1-75

SOTHEY BEARNE, 3 WARREN ROAD,
TORQUAY TQ2 5TG. TEL: (0843) 25852

Tuesday 15th November at 10.30 am
CLOCKS AND WATCHES, WEAPONS, CARPETS
AND RUGS, BAROMETERS AND COLLECTORS'
ITEMS Cat. (28 plates) £1

Tuesday 22nd November at 10.30 am
CERAMICS AND GLASS Cat. (20 plates) £1

AT HOPE TOWN HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Tuesday 15th November at 6 pm
SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH SILVER, OBJECTS OF
VERTU, FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART
and at 9 pm
SCOTTISH AND SPORTING PAINTINGS,
DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS
Cat. (244 illustrations, 15 in colour) £3

SOTHEY PARKE BERNET A.G.,
20 BLEICHENWEG, 8022 ZURICH

Tuesday 15th November at 5 pm
A FINE COLLECTION OF PORTRAIT
MINIATURES Cat. (75 illustrations, 30 in colour) £2-50

Wednesday 16th November at 10 am, 2.30 pm and 5 pm
FINE GOLD BOXES, OBJECTS OF VERTU,
CLOCKS AND WATCHES, FABERGE AND
RUSSIAN WORKS OF ART
Cat. (224 illustrations, 54 in colour) £3

Thursday 17th November at 10 am
FINE JEWELS
Cat. (165 illustrations, 74 in colour)


Friday 18th November at 10 am
FINE EUROPEAN SILVER
Cat. (81 illustrations, 9 in colour) £2-50

SASKIA-SOTHEY'S, LAGASCA 16, MADRID 1

Tuesday 15th November and following day at 8 pm
GENERAL SALE

Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms, or by post from 2 Merrington Road, London SW6 1AG. Telephone: (01) 381 3173

Scotland: John Robertson, 19 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AH. Telephone: (01) 226 5438
Midlands and the North: in association with Henry Spencer & Sons, 20 The Square, Redford, Nottingham DN1 6DJ. Telephone: (0777) 796 767



Phillips

**Properties under
£25,000**

**THORNTON HEATH,
SURREY**

Ready to walk into!

Outlet road within 5 mins.
walk of station. 15 mins.
Victoria. 10 mins. Croydon.
Easy access to main roads.
bedrooms (fitted furniture,
dressing table), and bedroom,
new bathroom, suite with
shower unit, lounge including
new luxury Wilton carpet and
gas fire, dining room, fitted
kitchen. Gas fired C.M. fitted
carpals throughout, private
garden with roses and shed.
Parking space off road.
£15,000

Tel. London 01-488 7738

Tuesday, 15th Nov.—11 a.m.
English and Continental
Furniture, Works of Art
Carpets

Tuesday, 15 Nov.—1.30 p.m.
Books, MSS, Maps, Engravings,
Postcards

Wednesday, 16 Nov.—11 a.m.
Oriental Ceramics and
Works of Art

Thursday, 17 Nov. 11 a.m.
Musical Instruments
III. Cat. 50p

Friday, 18 Nov.—11 a.m.
Antique, Foreign Silver and
Old Sheffield Plate

Monday, 21 Nov.—11 a.m.
Antique Decorative Furniture
Works of Art, Carpets

Monday, 21 Nov.—11 a.m.
Good Watercolours
III. Cat. 50p

Monday, 21 Nov.—2 p.m.
Oil Paintings

Tuesday, 22 Nov.—11 a.m.
English and Continental
Furniture, Works of Art
Carpets

Tuesday, 22 Nov.—12.30 p.m.
British and Continental
Pewter and Metalware

Tuesday, 22 Nov.—1.30 p.m.
11 a.m.—1.30 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Fine Jewels
III. Cat. £1.20

No View Saturday

PHILLIPS WEST 2
Thurs., 17 Nov.—10 a.m.
View Wed.
Furniture & Objects
at 10 Salem Road, W.2

PHILLIPS MARYLEBONE
Wed. 16 Nov.—12 noon
View Tues. and Wed. 9-11
**Baxter Prints &
Stevengraphs**
Frl., 18 Nov.—10 a.m.
View Thurs.
Furniture & Objects
at Hayes Place, N.W.1
Tues., 22 Nov.—11.30 a.m.
Collectors' Items
View Mon. 10-12.30; Tues. 9-11
Cat. 25p

On view two days prior
Tuesday evening view until 7 p.m.
All Catalogues 30p unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday, 16th November at 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS & DRAWINGS

Thursday, 17th November at 11 a.m.
**ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL
FURNITURE**
incl. a 16th c. Polish brass chandelier
an Indian teak bureau, a 16th c. style
refectory table, a 19th c. rosewood settee.

Thursday, 17th November at 11 a.m.
**17TH & 18TH CENTURY
EUROPEAN PAINTINGS**
incl. works by J. Barker; T. de Bock;
J. G. Breda; C. Bond; C. F. Burt; H. A.
Cromwell; P. D. Dierckx; S. G. Dierckx;
H. Haerle; J. H. Huyler; A. D. Lucas; O.
Mort; C. M. P. van der Stroom; E. J. van
S. G. van der Waer; W. M. Williamson; C. Willis.
(On view three days prior.)

Bonhams
FOUNDED 1793
Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge,
London SW7 1HH. Tel: 01-584 9161.
Telex: 916477 Bonhams G.

OLD CHAIRS GALLERY:
75 St Andrews Place, Regent Street, London W1M
Telephone: 01-582 1946.
St. JAMES'S PLACE
3 Ashol Court, Park, Westbury (Wiltshire) W13 1JL.
GENOVA, ITALY
1 rue Pedro Maria, Venezia and telephone 071/261.
MELBOURNE OFFICE
3 Langford Hill House, Market Lane, Melbourne 3002.
Newspaper Branch: Melbourne Street, Melbourne.

Also representative in the West Coast and East Angles

Friday, 18th November at 11 a.m.
PORCELAIN & WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 22nd November at 11 a.m.
SILVER & PLATE

Wednesday, 23rd November at 2 p.m.
PRINTED BOOKS
Illustrated Catalogue 60p.

At the Old Chalmers Galleries
18th November at 10.30 a.m.

FURNITURE & MISCELLANEA
Catalogue 20p.

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN
19th century large detached
cottage in beautiful part of
Gloucestershire, 3 bedrooms,
kitchen, larder, garden. All
modern services. Excellent
recreation, planning, country
views. 1/2 mile main line rail-
way station.
No. 19 Residential 8+1/2 acre
garden with bathroom and full
kitchen. 1/2 mile main line rail-
way station. Price £28,000. s.p.o.
Mainland price: £28,000. s.p.o.
Write Box 2488 J, The Times.

2 WELSH BORDER COTTAGES
Stone-built in the early 18th
century. Set in beautiful
Cotswold country, 2 1/2 miles
from garden, 90 yards from
the river Avon.
Ground. Only partially converted
into 2 beds of rooms. Garden
available.

54,500 FREEHOLD
Telephone number: 01-236 1616
or 01-236 5551

Glendinings

Specialists in the Sale by Auction of Coins and Medals

7 Bishopsgate Street, New Bond Street, W1Y 9LD. Telephone 01-495 9445

GROUPS & CO.

H. G. F. Crowden, M.A., F.R.C.S., F. J. Crowden, F.S.V.A.,
D. G. Mould, A.R.C.S.

FINE ART AUCTIONS, commencing 1959
2 New, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211th, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411th, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511th, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611th, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th,

Wednesday, 16th November, at 10 a.m. and
Thursday, 17th November, at 1 p.m.

ANCIENT, ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS

Including a series of Choice Roman bronze Eastern from an old
Collection: a series of good silver coins and a good Collection of
English silver Crown pieces.

(Illustrated Catalogue 115 Plates—Price £1).

CHASSA AUCTION
HALLS WISBECH
WEDNESDAY 22nd
NOVEMBER 1977 at 2 p.m.

225 Lots comprising:
Jewellery, Clocks and MGV.
Baldoni Motor Cars; Lamps,
Antique and other Books,
Antique Pottery, Antique
and other Furniture and 10
Antique Eastern Rugs and
Carpets.

THURSDAY 23rd
NOVEMBER 1977 at 10 a.m.

250 Lots comprising:
Glass, China and Pottery,
Antique and other Carpets,
25 Antique Mirrors and 25
Clocks and Antique, Victorian
and Edwardian Furniture.

WEDNESDAY 23rd
NOVEMBER 1977 at 10 a.m. 640 Lots comprising:
Superior Antique Furniture, 10 Low-case and 7 Bracket Clocks,
Superior Gold, Silver and 1000s sterling and plated silver
ware, 1000s, 2500s, 5000s, 10000s, 20000s, 50000s, 100000s,
colours, Prisms, etc.

NEW 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER ONWARDS
Continued Illustrated Catalogue 60p including postage.

Wednesday, 30th November, at 1 p.m.

A Collection of

NAVAL & MILITARY DECORATIONS & MEDALS

(Catalogue—Price 30p).

Wednesday and Thursday, 7th, 8th December, 1977,
at 10 a.m. each day

ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS

In gold, silver and copper.

Including the Scythian silver coins from the Nidzha Treasure
Hoard, a series of British and French coins, a good
coin and a Collection of English silver, copper & bronze coins
from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

(Illustrated Catalogue 114 Plates—Price £1).

COLLECTORS

Harrods Estate Offices

Hong office: 1 Haze Road, S.W.3. Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers
AUCTION SALES THIS WEEK

ARUNDEL YERKHA, LONUUK, s.w.13 by Chancerysmilk Bridge.
Tel.: D1-748 2739.

Thursday, 17th November
2.00 p.m.
SILVERWARE & JEWELLERY
Including Georgian, Victorian and modern silver; canisters of cutlery, canteen, chandeliers, trays and other plated ware, sculpture diamond rings, watches, etc.
Catalogue 1hs
11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday,
16th November, 10 a.m.
Oriental and other carpets
and four floor
Wednesday,
16th November, 10.30 a.m.
Antique and modern furniture
Thursday,
17th November, 10 a.m.
Objects of art, Porcelain, etc.
Viewing from 10.30 to 5 p.m.
Catalogue 1hs
Forenooning "specialised sales"
on December 1st and 2nd
December: 10.30 AM MODELS.

IMMEDIATE CASH OFFER
for
Antique DIAMOND JEWELLERY
GOLD SNUFF BOXES
Antique WATCHES, etc
Valuations made
BENTLEY & CO. LTD.
65 Horse Lane Street
London W1P 9DF
01-628 2626

ANTIQUE MAPS and atlases, British and foreign, hand-colored wood Antiquarian Bookshops Ltd., Cambridge.

CAMEO AND PIERCE MEDALS—Wallace G. Bailey Rd., London.

COINS AND MEDALS urgently required for cash sale.

Atkinson are still paying highest prices for old gold, silver and jewellery.

ATKINSON
44 Staines St, Knightsbridge SW1
01-275 3481

London & Suburban property

HAMPSTEAD HEATH 2 mps., walk,

BIGGS & BETTER Mortgage Co. 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2BS Tel: 01-478 7540

PUBLIC NOTICES



PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT OF RESERVANT NATIONAL GLASSES LIMITED

On 16 October 1977, Mr R. H. Mortimer, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has received reference to the Memoranda of Association, Constitution and Bye-laws of Reservant National Glasses Limited and reports under the provisions of the Companies Act 1967 that the proposed acquisition by United Kingdom Government of Reservant National Glasses Ltd of Reservant National Glasses Ltd is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1967.

The proposed acquisition by United Kingdom Government of Reservant National Glasses Ltd of Reservant National Glasses Ltd is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1967.

The proposed acquisition by United Kingdom Government of Reservant National Glasses Ltd of Reservant National Glasses Ltd is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1967.

[illegible]

 **DEMOCRATIC AND** 

POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry for Light Industry
Societe Nationale des Semouleries, Meuneries
Fabriques de Pates Alimentaires et Coudours
6 Boulevard Zlout Youcef, Algiers.

**INTERNATIONAL
INVITATION TO TENDER**

SOCIETE NATIONALE SEMPAC INVITES INTERNATIONAL TENDERS FOR THE TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION OF THREE (3) FACTORIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BABY FOODS.

Interested companies may obtain tender specifications from 15 October, 1977, onwards, from SN Sempac - Direction de Developpement, 25 Rue Azam Mohamed (ex Rue de Suez), Belcourt, Algier, against payment of DA 200.

Tenders accompanied by the appropriate documents and references should be placed in two sealed envelopes marked "Appel d'Offres - Usines d'Aliment. Infantiles - Soumission - a ne pas ouvrir."

The final date for receipt of tenders is Thursday, 30 January, 1978.

<p>TRANSFER BOOKS</p> <p>THE NATIONAL BANK OF ALABAMA LIMITED Incorporated in the State of Alabama</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the REGISTERED STOCKS AND TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED ON THE EVENING OF 1977, for one day only for the purpose of making the transfer dividend on the 15th December, 1977, at 5 p.m., on the 14th December.</p> <p>L. A. CRUICKSHANK, C.A.S.A. Sec'y.</p>	<p>DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS</p> <p>TASTE FOR ADVENTURE</p> <p>Exciting job offered for London based or Establisment in a state of adventure. Excitement comes in the Matter. Maria Same resident in Malta ready to accept a job to study 5 weeks to produce really good food by 15 October. Return airport paid salary and home arrangements negotiable.</p> <p>Apply in writing for MISS B. GREEN GOVERNOR'S CAMP St South Audley St. W.I. Interviews to be held in</p>
---	--

OLDMAN in television studies
Television production and direction
Television Training Centre
City University, London
W1C 0PW

**G.C.E. DEGREE and Professional
Exams.** Tuition and exam fees
reduced to £1000.00
Dept. A11, Woburn, MK4
0494 5PR Tel. 0295 54331. 24
hrs.

**CATERING SITUATIONS
DOMESTIC AND**

COOK/HOUSEKEEPER

Executive Guest House

**MARRIED
COUPLE
REQUIRED**

Registration with a Single
Mother, Husband, Father, Grand-
mother, Large well-maintained 12
bedroom house, with 3 bathrooms,
bathrooms, 1 kitchen also in
better condition than any other
child, very little entertaining.

First class references required
037 2942

[illegible]

superannuated, offers an attractive salary and a well-contained furnished flat is provided free of charge.

Please write with brief details to Box Number 0000 X, The Times

CHEERFUL COOK?

Permanent position offered from 1st January 1974 to 31st March 1975. Salary £10.00 per week, previously over £8.00. Small family, friendly, happy, and healthy. Located in East Midlands close to beautiful lakes and wide recreation. Church nearby, personally selected. Other details may be given by telephone. Enquiries only.

**COOK/HOUSEKEEPER
WANTED**

Philippine or Chinese speaking
living in a cook house/accept
invited to look after a family
with two children.
occasionally a neighborhood
house with own
kitchen, dining
room, and
bath. His salary
\$250 per
week. His
office on
509 9300
or at home

or wife. Excellent cook/baker
of traditional "including" light
baking and food. Some
of negotiation.

For more details
and references in Box 0707 K. The
Times.

**EXPERIENCED
ASSISTANT**

UNIQUE CATERING OPPORTUNITY

We need person or partners for good home-cooking on weekdays evenings at the Centre for young people at St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

Partners: During term in school on nights in strand area. Friends also include cleaning, light and cook, with preparation of food, drinks and general housework. Approx. £4.00 p.w. 9 a.m.-5.30 a.m. Sat. week. Salary up to £2.00 p.w.

Tel: 01-460 1300. Mrs. Laidlaw.

MARRIED CHAUFFEUR Mechanic, experienced private service. No phone calls. Write Mr. Wilson, 607 Broadway house near W. 42nd St., New York City.

TRIPOLI - ATHENS. married couple with two children, previous experience as Butler and Cook, Housekeeper for Government Minister and respectable refs. for these highly paid and responsible positions. V.I.P. International Staff Consultants, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2.

WORCESTERHIRE - Father and son, 20 years experience in

Many excellent opportunities in South Wales: about £50 p.w. - typists, clerks, etc. - 100, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel. 65571. K.

REQUIRED

SEMI-GRANDS - to £100 m available for Central London and

with children and able to drive. Happy country home. Live in or good unfurnished cottage. Other help.—Please write Box 0006X, The Times.

91.770 0824.

AU PAIRS AVAILABLE.—J. J. AGENCY, 940 0827 before 8 P.M.

ATTENTION ALL CHRISTMAS ADVERTISERS

This is the kind of response which The Times is

Stuck for an original
Christmas gift?

MARBLE WINE TABLE

This beautiful marble-topped table has a magnificent detachable, cast brass pedestal.

Only \$45 inc. p. & p. Also available in mahogany, coffee, teak, brass inlaid.

Nov. 5th. After one single column advertisement he has sold all available table-

Telephone now Dublin
while stocks last. I.N.T.C.
Ltd, Dublin.

Our Christmas Count Down Runs for the next

Bazaar Pull Out Supplement on December 3rd
If you have a mail order business or retail outlet
contact us now on
01-278-0351

AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR
COMPETITIVE ADVERTISEMENT RATES

مکمل من اجل



"You'd think," he teased, "for £3650, they'd have concealed the screws."

"Actually," I pointed out, "those tiny hexagonal screws, as you call them, are an intrinsic part of the design."

In any case, I thought to myself, they're bolts, not screws.

There were eight of them. In eighteen carat gold, locking the distinctive, geometric bezel to the face of the watch. Tightly as a porthole.

Royal Oak is a completely individual watch. Like many Audemars Piguet designs, its bold, uncompromising beauty owes more to function than to passing fashion.

For all my friend's flippancy, I could see he was fascinated.

As we spoke, his glance was continually drawn to the watch on my wrist. Its surfaces, linked together in perfect symmetry, glowed in the last rays of the sun as it set into an azure sea.

"I am reminded that the Royal Oak is water-resistant to a depth of 300 feet," I said steadying my grip on the hand rail as I watched the wake of the ship break into a million golden reflections.

"What is more," I resumed, "every Royal Oak has its own number engraved on the back. Not simply to show its exclusivity, but to provide a future indication of its history to its makers.

"So they will know at a glance not only when the watch was made, but also which craftsman assembled it, high in the Jura mountains of Switzerland.

"Polishing each part first with diamond paste, then with the pith from an elder tree and finally with the softest doeskin cloth."

"It must take time," my friend commented.

"Speed is hardly the purpose of the exercise," I replied. "Indeed, the cost of a Royal Oak watch is partly a reflection of the time it takes to produce such perfection."

"But why 'Royal Oak'?" he persisted.

"Originally," I explained, "the Royal Oak watch was designed in stainless steel and named after two British Royal Navy steel ships from the turn of the century.

"These were named 'Royal Oak' after the hollow tree where the future King Charles the Second is reputed to have found refuge from his enemies."

"Ah," he smiled, "a symbol of powerful force protecting a precious life within."

"A nice definition," I said "and having made Royal Oak from one of the strongest metals in the world, what could now be more natural than to make it from the most beautiful?"

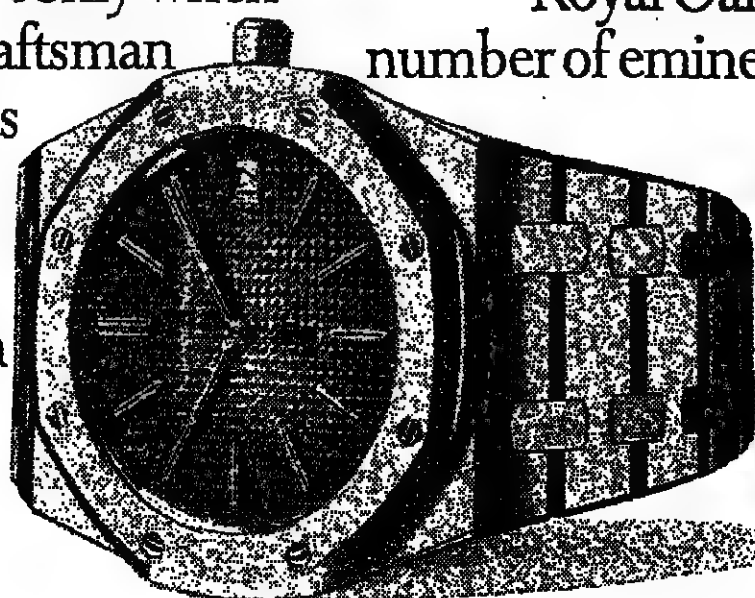
"I should like to compare them," he murmured, raising his eyes from my watch to the deepening glow on the horizon.

"Should you happen to be in New Bond Street," I suggested, "call at Asprey's. Or step across to Garrard's in Regent Street.

"Should Knightsbridge suit you better go to Graff in the Brompton Road.

"Royal Oak watches are stocked only by a small number of eminent jewellers.

"But then, they are only made in small numbers."



Audemars Piguet
La plus prestigieuse des signatures.

a Special Report

Moving up the table
in Britainby Pamela Vandyke
Price

The progress made by Italian wines in Britain is a tribute to intelligent selling and publicity methods and resolute controls of quality at source. The British, loving Italian wines as "Bolt-boys" drinks or to accompany pasta in an inexpensive Italian restaurant in Britain, have adjusted slowly to appreciating them as good wines in their own right.

Many have been excellent accompaniments to British food, interesting even to the conservative lover of better known classics.

Ten years ago Italian table wines enjoyed little prestige. They were not the choice for the novice drinker entertaining an important business contact in a smart restaurant, or for the party at home where much skill had been expended in the kitchen and the wines were expected to impress the guests.

Today the position has changed and continues to do so. In 1976 Britain imported 282,724 hectolitres of Italian wine compared with 28,125 hectolitres in 1970. Italy exports less wine to Britain than does France, but Italy has drawn ahead of Germany in exports and is beginning to challenge Spain.

Chianti is no longer the only name on wine lists in both the retail and the catering trades. The emergence of other names in "role wines" has been augmented by an awareness of brands regarding sparkling wines and vermouth. The British public are said to be conservative but once they change their drinking habits, they are "permanently loyal" to what they like and they seem to go on buying it.

There is, perhaps, a link between the admitted progress on the quality and stylishness of Italian wines and the way in which they are drunk in Britain. Younger drinkers seem prepared to try wines that are new to them. Maps are studied, books and articles consulted and tasting groups try their palates on the

wines they can find from the Alto Adige, the Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia, Romagna, the Marches and Sicily.

Italy's heritage of art has made possible, in commercial terms, the superb maps, posters and publicity material that local syndicates and importers make use of to introduce the British public to Italian wines.

They provoke immediate interest because of their excellence of design and liveliness of approach. From the moment that the drinker who wants a change looks at even a modest window or counter display of Italian wines, contact is established. Surely anything presented with such artistry is at least worth a try.

It is essential never to approach an Italian wine with the slightest intention of comparing it with any other wine from any other country. Italy is a large country with such variations of climate and wine-making traditions that generalisations and comparisons are unwise.

Because of the extensive range of wines from Italy, retailers are beginning to help the potential customer to sort out the regions.

Many are keeping their stocks of Italian wines apart from others, so that buyers can see several barolos or chiantis or vermouths from different firms side by side. Buyers are now aware that most of the great wine establishments make a range which will include everyday wines and go up to the fine and the rare.

Another marked trend is in the sale of 1.5 litre and 2 litre bottles, with even larger ones available from Italian producers, which are good value and can be just right for parties. That is another example of the way less expensive Italian wines can be enjoyed because they go with meat, fish, casseroles, salads and every kind of British fare as well as the many regional specialities of their homeland.

No rigid "white with fish, red with meat" is necessary with them—drink as you like. The British are drinking large quantities of Italian sparkling wines which include a number of wines lesser known than asti spumante, some of them being made by the champagne method. Bouts never think now of apologizing for

serving such sparklers. It is perhaps another instance of declining wine snobbery when people want to offer a wine that is good but cheap.

The fruitiness of the moscato grape, which makes oil and, appeals immediately to all types of drinkers. But the fineness of many of them in slightly drier form, such as the top grade sparklers of Riccadonna and Martini, are enjoyed by the most worldly type of drinker.

In 1976 Italy sent Britain 48,432 hectolitres of sparkling wine, which represented 50.18 per cent of the sparkling wines imported by Britain. That shows that these wines are more than ice-cream and pastry partners.

The British love the mouth-filling, immediately fragrant wines from the north and the easy-going southern reds, which stand up to our specialities, such as steak and kidney pudding, roasted cheese and can also be good refreshers.

mince. The big reds, such as those from Piedmont, are good with game, as they are in Italy, and they provide a sensuous pleasure for drinkers who respond to wines which have guts as well as grace.

The Italian whites are often so different from other European classics that drinkers may be slightly puzzled by them. But the Trabbiano grape, makes lightly scented buttery whites, and the northern whites, which are light (red) are popular.

Martini is reported to have 53.6 per cent of the market in Britain and it leads in the extra dry and rosso markets, where Cin-

zano, which accounts for 25.1 per cent in the same period, naturally leads in the blancos, with Riccadonna some way behind, although they make individual vermouths.

It is interesting that next vermouth is being drunk more, as it used to be. Because of that trend the difference in brands is more and more important. Vermouth and soda is a pleasant, long, thirst-quenching tipple that any bar can provide for the drinker who wants to limit his alcoholic intake.

By January, 1978, it is expected that Italian table wines may show an increase

of 34 per cent for 1977 over the volume of imports for 1976. That shows, perhaps, that drinkers are getting more adventurous. There is much scope for exploring the large range of inexpensive Italian wines that the big firms now sell, as well as the special vineyards that are expensive even in their own regions.

K. W. P.

Since the introduction of the DOC control, wines bottled in Italy have been brought into line with established traditions in areas where it has been granted. Elsewhere bulk wines have much improved, thanks to the work of oenologists who have been aware of what is required for selling at home and abroad, and the benevolent supervision of many large businesses whose backing has assured continuity of quality.

Many wines, of course, will improve and others will be easier to find abroad. Many estates will in time produce fine wines as well as their everyday lines, and Britain is fortunate to be on the receiving end.

The author is Wine Correspondent, The Times.

Bacchus bequeaths
his image

by Allan Plowman

As far back as 1384 the chateaus of Florence and Siena, otherwise at loggerheads with one another, agreed to cooperate in the protection of the most valuable asset they had in common—their wine.

The league they formed was a forerunner of the Consorzio Vino Chianti Classico set up in 1924 by producers anxious to redefine standards in a world where Italian wine in general commanded scant respect.

Three years later three of the more northern zones of Chianti—Montalbano, Rufina and Colli Fiorentini—formed the Consorzio Puro, adopting a Bacchic cherub as their particular symbol. Its standards and requirements were only slightly less demanding than those sporting the black cockerel of Chianti Classico. They remain so, and are now open to growers in the other three zones of the defined Chianti area, the hills of Siena, Arezzo and Pisa.

For 30 years it was a working rule for the buyer that a bottle of Chianti should bear the neck label of Gallo or Puro. In other areas of Italy as well the local consorzi were legally entrusted with authority to pontificate on production and labelling.

Does the sign of the consorzio mean anything today, in view of the state law of Denominazione di Origine Controllata? On the day of vintage last month in Montepaldi the Marchese Cino Corsini gave me his opinion that the Consorzio Gallo, which his father had helped to found, tended nowadays merely to duplicate the technical regulations of DOC. He agreed, however, that such bodies still did a useful job of joint publicity. I believe, too, that Gallo at least has a task ahead in a possible classification of the district's crus, in the manner of the Bordeaux vineyards that Chianti Classico most seeks to emulate.

It was on July 12, 1963, that the turning point came and the President of the Republic issued Decree No 930, setting forward rules to protect the name-sources of Italian wines. The new laws were drawn up in harmony

with EEC regulations approved the year before.

Responsible, with the Ministry of Agriculture, for administering the DOC regulations is a national committee composed of growers, producers, dealers, members of relevant professional associations and state specialists.

Penalties for misuse of approved wine names are now every bit as heavy as those inflicted on sinners against the French laws of appellation d'origine.

Worthwhile or not, consorzi are required to be set up within controlled areas by EEC legislation. Wine growers and producers are not obliged to join these associations, although there is much advantage in their doing so. Each consorzio is entitled to police the practices of its members. The inspectors are themselves fellow members (or members of fellow consorzi) and may therefore have a charitable view of malpractices. On the whole, though, the principles of group psychology prevail and the erring brother falls into line. Certainly it is a brave individual who scorns altogether to join his consorzio.

The real safeguard to the consumer lies in the sanctions of DOC: in the knock on the door from the state anti-fraud police, in the far from lenient sampling by the Government when wines are to be exported. And these official attentions are likely to be all the more acute when a firm has decided against membership of a consorzio.

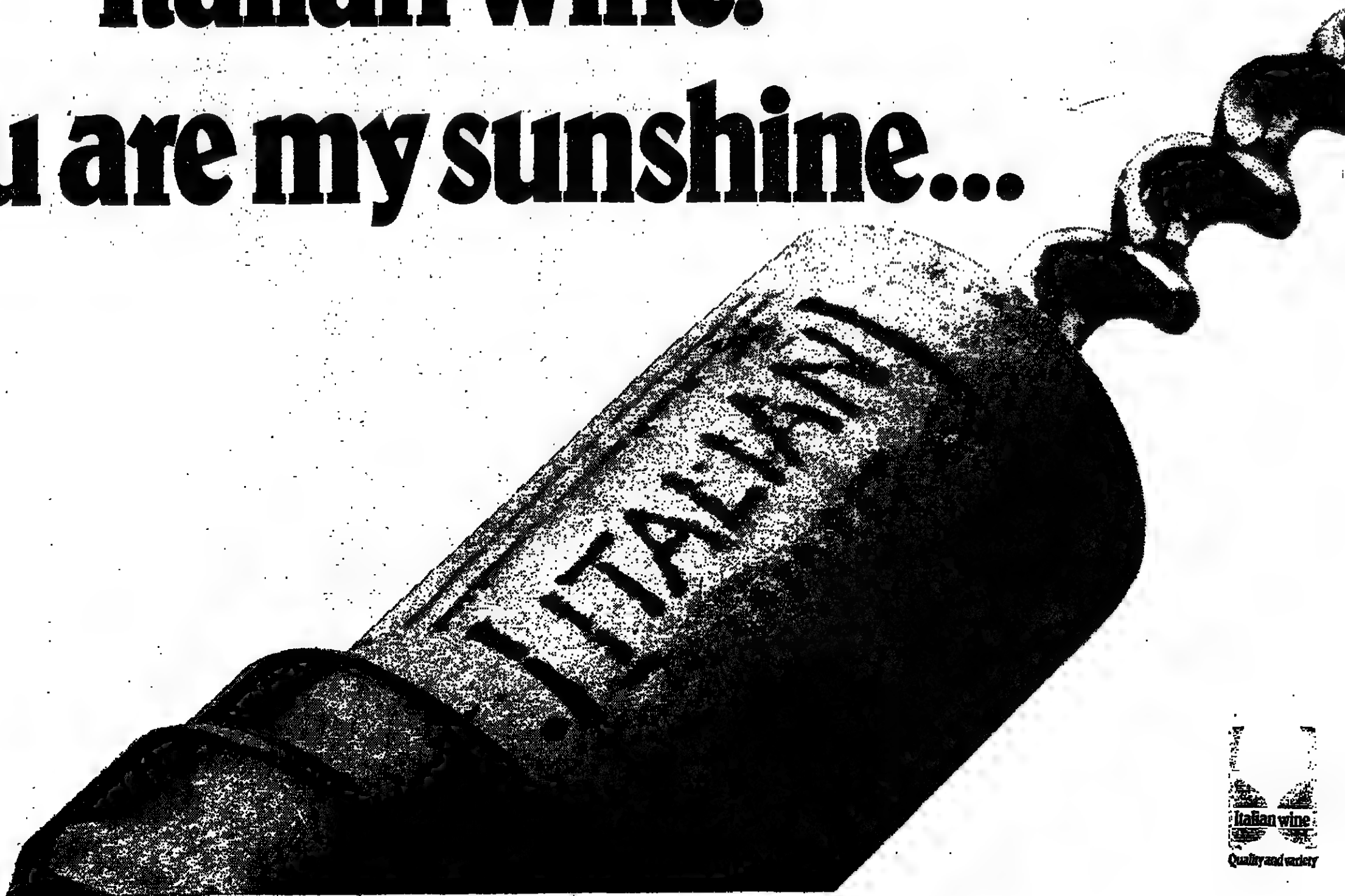
It is up to the grower or producer to prove his case for the award of a DOC. DOC regulations ensure that a wine is from the area named; uses the laid down proportions of specific grapes; is made by traditional methods and is properly aged; does not exceed defined quantities in relation to vineyard area; gives the true vintage date; and is not misleadingly labelled.

Italian wines multiply by their multiplicity of names. The title may refer to place or a grape variety; to the producing company or a brand. It may even follow the tradition of Vino Maria Mia or Da Vinci Extra Fine—fair enough clue that the contents probably hail from anywhere but Naples or Florence.

continued on next page

Italian wine.

You are my sunshine...



Italian wine
Quality and variety

913-21

Acclaimed by emperor and poet

by Bruno Roncarati

Veneto is one of the most interesting regions of Italy on account of its wines and of its geographic situation.

The variety of wines made there is considerable, extending from delicate whites to full bodied reds, so is that of contrasting scenery such as the mass of snow clad Dolomite peaks and the smooth beaches of the Adriatic sea.

The best known wine of the region is undoubtedly Valpolicella, a red wine, dry, with a slightly bitter after taste reminiscent of bitter almonds, this being a characteristic common to other wines of the area.

The basic grape varieties used are Corvina Veronese, Rondinella and Molinara also used is the making of Recioto Amareno. This is a superb red produced with selected grapes left to dry for a few weeks on special racks to increase the percentage of natural sugar that transforms into alcohol during the lengthy process of fermentation that follows, prolonged by the cold temperature of the winter months, and gives a big wine suitable for aging.

Both Valpolicella and Recioto Amareno are considered the descendants of the ancient red wine and active wine, the former being well known to Roman emperors and poets alike and referred to by Martial, Pliny, Strabo and Virgil.

The area of production is in the province of Verona, north of the city and spreads east from the Adige river. The western part of this area is known as the zona classica and this is where the best wine is produced. Valpolicella with 12 or more degrees of alcohol and aged for at least one year, is entitled the additional specification superiore. So look at the label carefully and you will no longer be puzzled by the price differentiation between Valpolicella. The classico superiore is normally sold in the conventional three quarter litre bottle and is more pricey, pro-rata, than the plain Valpolicella usually sold in large 1.5 and two litre bottles with cork stopper.

This applies to other wines both from this region and from elsewhere, even if the prescribed minimum aging period and alcoholic content may vary from wine to wine. It applies indeed to Bardolino and Soave, a pale red

Bruno Roncarati is the author of *Viva Vico: the DOC Wines of Italy*.

and white from near there. The former is similar to Valpolicella, though lighter and often fruitier, and is made with grapes grown on the south-eastern shores of Lake Garda, a beautiful lake of glacial origin where viticulture has been in existence as long as mankind. It is a pleasant wine not too well known in Britain, but with great potential: just a matter of the consumer mastering the pronunciation of its name, an obstacle often underestimated and difficult to overcome.

The wine is named after the prehistoric lake village of Bardolino that lies in a little picturesque bay at the foot of vine-covered hills crowned by cypress trees. Lambertini is the largest producer of Bardolino Classico having over 200 hectares of vineyards in the zona classica. Its Classico superiore is gathering momentum and is obtainable at Peter Dominici shops where Soave and Valpolicella Lambertini can also be found, the latter being part of the current "take three save 50p" offer.

Soave is a white wine of delicate taste, slightly bitter and fruity, made from Garganega and Trebbiano di Soave north east of Verona. It is an ideal companion for delicate dishes.

In accordance with the oenological tradition of its province and further to promote it throughout the world, each year from September to October, Verona stages Vintaggio, the most comprehensive wine fair in the country, where the wines of more than 1,000 producers are on show and for tasting. This is the charming town of Romeo and Juliet, on the banks of the Adige river, where Roman, medieval and Renaissance art blend so gracefully together, people gather every autumn from all over the world to sample the wines of Italy.

Some 30 miles north-east of Verona, in Vicenza, the home town of Palladio, the creator of an architectural style much admired and followed in England in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Palladio's finest villa, the Rotonda, is one of Vicenza's greatest jewels. Also to be admired are the superb cathedral, the magnificent Piazza del Capitaro and the Theatre.

A few miles north of there is Breganze, a small town that gives its name to six wines made with different grape varieties. These are Breganze Bianco, Breganze Rosso, Breganze Cabernet, Breganze Pinot Nero, Bre-

ganze Pinot Bianco, Breganze Vespaio. The first two, the bianco and the rosso are made predominantly with Torcai and Merlot respectively, and a small percentage of other grape varieties.

The others are made mainly from the grape variety indicated. Their alcoholic content varies between 11° and 12° and their predominant characteristics are derived from the main type of grape used. These are sound, fresh, fruity wines of limited production, seldom found abroad.

On the way to Venice a sense of expectation always prevails. The contrast with the industrialized towns of Marghera and Mestre becomes more obvious approaching the Grand Canal. Here one dives almost abruptly into the past and navigating under a low bridge or wandering on foot along the narrow canals, the presence of people in modern clothing does not appear appropriate in a setting that

is reminiscent of Canaletto's works and could be framed and hung over the mantelpiece.

It is along the canal, off the beaten track that some few rustic still exist. These towns are the ideal place to sample local wine. In the summer they sell it by the glass from rustic barrels, refrigerated by advanced methods. It may be Soave or Verduzzo from the Piave basin, fragrant, chest quenching and invigorating. The local sea food naturally is complemented by these excellent whites but they are not a must by any means. Try a fresh, fruity Bardolino on a fritto di pesce: though not a white wine, you will find it most appropriate.

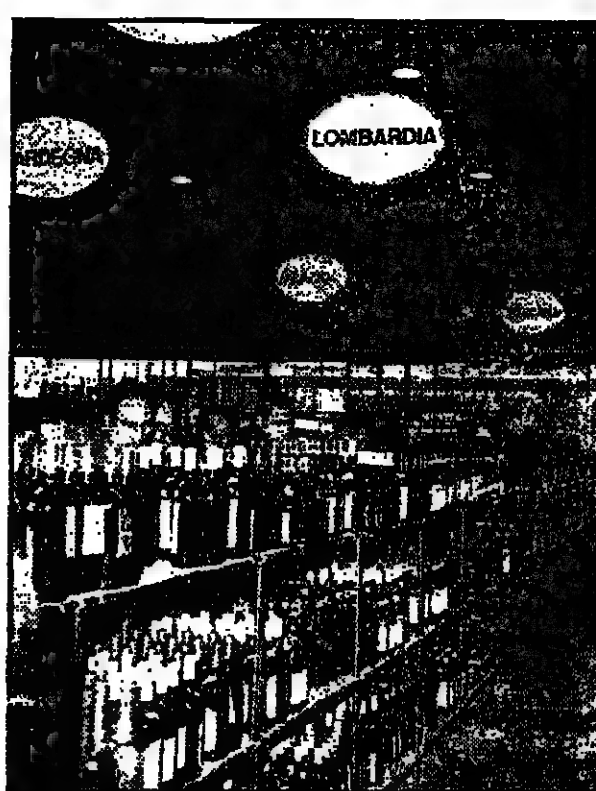
Leaving behind the lagoon, whether you go north or east, there are vineyards again. To the north, some 30 miles, is Conegliano and near by Valdobbiadene. Prosecco is made there, a white wine produced with Treviso grapes grown in a

defined area in the province of Treviso. If made from grapes grown in a much more restricted area known as Cartizze, located in the commune of Valdobbiadene, the wine is entitled the additional specification superiore di Cartizze.

These white wines are of straw yellow colour, fruity and fresh and can be dry or amabile-dolce, semi-sweet, with an alcoholic content of about 11°. There is also a frizzante type that is rather bubbly and a spumante that is fully sparkling; both can be dry or semi-sweet and the spumante can also be sweet. They are all fruity and outstanding in their own rights.

For further information contact the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade ICE, 20 Savile Row, London W1.

The wines of more than 1,000 producers are shown at Verona's annual fair.



The Marches: why Hannibal failed

by Allan Plozman

After the hills of Piedmont or Tuscany, Lombardy can seem pretty flat—not least so during the present vintage, when floods swamped half the fields.

But even regions less low-lying than the valley of the Po can seem metaphorically flat, overshadowed by their more glamorous neighbours. For all the impressive roads that link the ancient province of Italy, local loyalties remain strong. Perugia, for instance, is far more withdrawn from Siena than the modest mileage between them would suggest.

On the northern side of the Apennines and towards the Adriatic, Emilia Romagna and the Marches can evoke much the same feeling of cultural remoteness. Of the latter area an official booklet itself states that it is "little known even to Italians".

Reggio Emilia is nevertheless one of the country's biggest wine-producers, with an output twice that of Lombardy. One of its wines is popular to the point of being a positive cult, and four others increasingly make their mark.

Lambrusco, the famous wine of Modena is a dark sparkling red, officially classed as dry (although amabile variations abound). It is a varietal, the Lambrusco

being the grape from which it is vinified, and the title is often qualified by a place name. Considered among the best is the Lambrusco di Sorbara.

Designed primarily to cut through the fatty dishes of the Bologna region—the spiced sausages, mortadella, doughy pastas and braised beans—Lambrusco sells in huge quantities as a party drink for the young, and notably in America—as a table wine for the not-so-young. The wine's local nickname is, indeed, "Lambrusco-cola".

In style Lambrusco has something in common with the red *vinhos verdes* of Portugal, it being best drunk while still fresh and young. Any initial froth soon subsides to a pleasant prickle, and in a good example the finish is clean.

The Romagna is a jolly people, and it could be discourteous to be over-enthusiastic about the wines they so hospitably dispense. Complementing the rich dishes of the region is the Romagna Sangiovese, a robust red made from the main ingredient of Chianti. Grown on the hillsides between Bologna and Rimini, it is a full-bodied dry wine that may grow less taut with moderate aging.

Of ancient renown is the Albano di Romagna, grown from a grape of that name unique to the region. Gold-

en-yellow and more often rather sweet than dry, it provides a fresh but appreciable mouthful. As with so many Italian whites, its alcohol content is deceptively high: 12.5°.

If the Sangiovese is the standard red grape of central Italy, Trebbiano is the classic white. The DOC zone for the Trebbiano di Romagna covers vineyards around Forlì, Ravenna and Bologna. It is a straw-coloured wine, dry and well-balanced.

At the opposite (western) end of the province, Piacenza—last outpost of the Piedmont hills—is the home of a red which formerly made no claim to attention but which now rates a DOC and enjoys a blossoming reputation: Gutturnio di Colli Piacentini. It surpasses the familiar Barbera of Piedmont with Bonarda, and is the sort of wine where your own verdict is as valid as anyone's.

All told, more than 70 types of wine may be tracked down in Emilia Romagna, but clearly only a handful of these come to—or merit—our notice.

The United States doubtless continues to consume five times as much Lambrusco as Chianti and a hundred times as much as Barolo. The Romagna is despatched to publicize their best Sangiovese, with the aid of the Passatore, a rollicking confraternity that

rivals the Sacchini d'Anjou in conviviality. Albano is at present the Emilia Romagna wine that commands the highest price.

The Marches, away on the Adriatic coast, was until recently a remote pupal state with poor communications. Its natives lived mainly on fishing and mixed farming. The region nevertheless produces one of Italy's most famous dry whites. The fancy amphora-shaped bottle in which Verdicchio is so often served in restaurants must come second only to the Chianti fiasco as the basis of home-made lamps.

Verdicchio deserves its esteem. It is a wine of appealing style, pale in colour, clean on the palate, full but with an edge of austerity: an admirable accompaniment to the local fish—or to any fish. The DOC demands a minimum alcohol content of 12° and one can see why Hannibal failed to encircle Rome when his troops sampled the Marches Verdicchio.

Verdicchio is again a varietal, made from a grape well improved yet further cropping up elsewhere in Italy. In the Marches, therefore, one looks for the qualifying place-name. Best known is the Verdicchio dei Colli di Jesi, from a small district behind the fiasco from EEC funds and port of Ancona. Only the low-interest loans, with their (classic) part of the noble improvements in zone may use the full title. Their methods of wine-making well known is its ing.

neighbour the Verdicchio di Matelica. Despite competition from its established cousin, the Matelica producers are now beginning to develop export markets.

As with varietals in many countries, the wine does not have to be made 100 per cent from the grape in question. The Verdicchio of both Castelli di Jesi and Matelica may reserve a fifth of their cépage for Tuscan Trebbiano and Malvasia.

Montepulciano and Sangiovese vines have been developed in the Marches to yield a couple of honest red wines. Rosso Conero and Rosso Piceno. The Conero is grown on a small mountain behind Ancona, and may best be described as a hearty vino of the better type.

Piceno Rosso, once the preserve of the old market town of Ascoli Piceno, is produced in many parts of the Marches, a stretch between the original town and the sea remains the site of classic Piceno, which in its superior version, aged for a year before bottling, may well improve yet further with a little patience. Sangiovese-based wines do not always soften with time, but classic Piceno would appear to do so.

The Marchigiani are benevolent of the old market town of Ascoli Piceno, with their (classic) part of the noble improvements in zone may use the full title. Their methods of wine-making well known is its ing.

UN VINO BIANCO

Un vino bianco diverso
fresco, profumato
armonico, delicato, fragorante
finito
chiaro, limpido, vero
sincero, impegnato
interessante, particolare
inconfondibile
ambizioso, nobile, algherese
rigoroso, gentile
simpatico, gradevole
insolito
gustoso, aromatico, secco
molto secco

Toriano Secco*

* Toriano Secco is produced in Alghero, Sardinia, in the House of Sella & Mosca. It is distributed by Italiana UK, 5, St. James's Street London SW1. Tel. 01-879 7473

FRASCATI WHITE WINE IDEAL TABLE WINE WITH ALL FOODS FRASCATI

A most popular Italian
white wine in
GREAT BRITAIN



This trademark
guarantees its
authenticity

c/o Consorzio Tutela
DENOMINAZIONE 'FRASCATI'
Via Matteotti 12/A FRASCATI—Tel. (06) 940022

There is a LATIUM WINE to suit your every taste!

There are so many good wines in Latium it can be a hazardous task to name them all, since there is always the danger that the one overlooked is a wine of superb style and quality.

Here are twenty D.O.C. quality wines for starters:

Aleatico di Gradoli
Capena Bianco
Cerveteri Bianco
Cerveteri Rosso
Cesane del Piglio
Colli Albani
Colli Lanuvi
Cori
Est! Est!! Est!!!
Frascati

Marino
Merlot di Aprilia
Montecompatri
Olevano Romano
Orvieto
Sangiovese di Aprilia
Trebiano di Aprilia
Velletri Bianco
Velletri Rosso
Zagarolo

Other Latium Wines of quality:

Baccanale bianco, Castelli Romani rosato and rosso, Cecubo, Centeno, Colli del Cavaliere bianco and rosso, Colli Etruschi bianco and rosso, Colli Cimini bianco and rosso, Colli Lepini bianco and rosso, Colle Rufeno bianco and rosso, Colli Sabini bianco and rosso, Falerno bianco and rosso, Genazzano, Gregghetto, Montegiove, Passerina del Piglio, Purofiore, Quintaluna, Rubino S. Clemente bianco and rosso, S. Maria bianco and rosso, Vallidoro bianco and rosso, Eminenza bianco and rosso.

Drink your way through these and you will do as the Romans do!...

Sponsored by the Regional Government of Latium, Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Chianti prospects are auspicious

by Colin Price Beech

A few weeks ago on a warm mid-October morning I stood on a sunlit Tuscan hillside overlooking a view which, with its calm vineyards and olive groves, woods and cypress trees, instantly recalled all of the tranquillity of a Renaissance landscape.

To the south-west of Florence at Montepaldi in the Chianti Classico region, the vintage had just begun and the proprietor, a distinguished Florentine aristocrat whose family had given Italy two popes and had owned this estate since 1326, had driven up from Porto Ercole to supervise the wine-making.

As we watched, the grapes were coming in with 12° of natural sugar which with fermentation would convert into alcohol, and although the spring had been unusually cold there had been no disease on the vines

throughout the summer: even at this stage there was every indication that 1977 would prove to be an excellent vintage.

This scene was perhaps typical of what was happening elsewhere in Chianti and indeed of what I had witnessed earlier that week further to the south in Umbria, where at Torgiano an exceptionally good—indeed unique—DOC wine, Rubesco Torgiano, is made by Dr. Lungarotti and his family. There, just a few days before, the San Giovese grapes had been coming into the presses with an almost incredible 21° to 22° of natural sugar which promised to make a very big wine indeed.

Elsewhere in Italy, though, the vintage of 1977 had been less satisfactory. To the north of Pisa a wet and chilly summer and autumn had been followed by violent rain and these early October storms had given the vineyards something of the appearance of neglected paddy-fields.

flooded with standing water between the vines.

Back in Chianti, however, the prospects are auspicious and the expectation is that although the quantity of wine being made will be approximately 30 per cent less than that of last year, the quality of the spring frosts, the quality of the wine should be extremely high, certainly comparable if not superior to that of 1975, which in its turn is a Chianti vintage generally reckoned to be as good as that of the outstanding 1971.

However, this year's vintage was won on the vine and a good year is certainly reckoned if Chianti, which is perhaps Italy's most controversial wine, is to maintain its comparatively recent and well-founded reputation for character and quality. Chianti, particularly an old Chianti, can be a fine and subtle wine, perhaps more comparable with Bordeaux than Beaujolais, but, as recent comparative tastings have revealed, vintages can vary widely.

Last year Chianti Classico produced some 350,000 hectolitres, but unfortunately the standard of this vintage was such that only 100,000hl will eventually be allowed the distinctive *Gatto nero*, the jealously guarded black cockerel bottle neck motif which is the Consorzio Chianti Classico seal of quality.

Other Chiantis from outside the Classico region are becoming deservedly better known on the British market. These include Chianti Rufina, Chianti Colli Fiorentini, Chianti Colli Pisani. The producers have combined to form the Consorzio di Chianti Rufina, a seemingly less elitist organization than that of Chianti Classico.

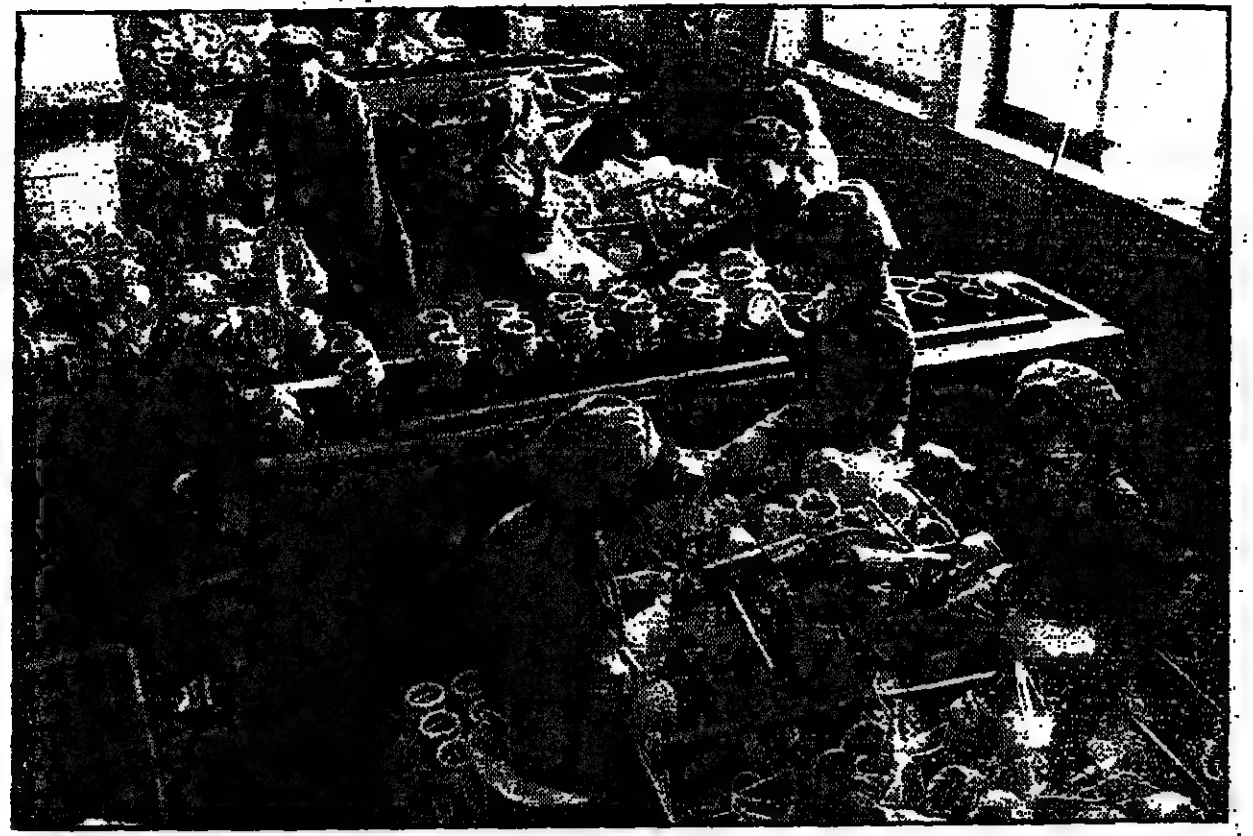
The four grape varieties traditionally included in the production of Chianti are San Giovese, often in the proportion of between 50 and 80 per cent, Canaiolo nero (10 to 30 per cent),

Tuscan Trebbiano and Malvasia del Chianti (also 10 to 30 per cent). Something uniquely Tuscan must surely be the governo system of vinification which is used in the production of those wines that are intended to be drunk when they are young.

In this system between 3 per cent and 10 per cent of a rich grape must is added to the wine after the first fermentation and this soon induces a deliberately controlled secondary fermentation giving the wine an enhanced freshness that it might otherwise lack.

Vecchio and Riserva wines however are both aged in wood, the former for a minimum of two years and the latter in large oak casks for three years or more. It is in this range that the full mature glory of one of Italy's most distinguished wines can best be judged.

The distinctive Chianti flasks, or fiascos, in the making.



Frascati delights eye and palate

by Meta Fordham

Earlier this year I set out to find Sabatini's in Rome, looking at the lovely church of Santa Maria in Trastevere and drinking Frascati with my evening meal. It was an enchanted scene, to be recommended to anyone as an introduction to the wines of Latium, for Frascati is the undoubted king of that region's wines.

Latium (Lazio) lies between Tuscany and Campania, facing the Tyrrhenian sea and no one really knows the origin of its ancient name, revived in the fifteenth century. The district envelopes Rome in a series of hills and fertile plains, the soil being both volcanic (which is good for vines) and with plenty of potassium in places (which makes for high sugar in the grapes and thus ensures plenty of alcohol).

These wines have flowed into Rome for centuries and in the smoky taverns of the Tiber banks or the grand restaurants of that most well-provided city, delectable carafes of cold, smooth, bloud wine are always to be found, with the occasional red not nearly so well known. They will all be of medium alcoholic strength.

The generic name for wines from the Alban Hills is *castelli romani*. Here the vine has been cultivated

since prehistoric times and Frascati (*secco*) with a sweet variety (called *idolico*), known as Canechino and an intermediate (*amabile*), has been established as a favourite wine in Britain since the late nineteenth century, nearly all *secco*, although in its region, there is a demand for the sweet ones too.

Italians like sweet wine with cheese: one falls into this habit rather easily on the spot. Frascati is a lovely wine on eye and palate. Brilliant, delicate straw-yellow in colour, with a light but potent grapey bouquet, the *secco* has only 1 per cent of sugar, but the minimum alcohol is 11.5° (12° makes it *superiore*), and, drunk in the midday heat, *un quarcino* and *un mezzo* can slide easily into *un litro* with unpredictable results to head and legs.

Frascati is a wine which has upheld the reputation of the Alban Hills since Roman days, when many an ode was sung to their bounty and today, Denominazione d'origine quality is protected by the Frascati Consorzio. This, among other regulations, lays down the districts from which it can come—mainly Frascati, Grottaferrata, Monteporzio and the home village of Cato's, a few outlying parts of Rome.

Everything that appears in a carafe locally may not be *castelli romani* (the Italian DOC Frascati) (the Italian attitude to wine being to

enjoy it, not to take it too seriously) but what is exported is *castelli romani* wine: Colli Albani, Colli Lanuvii, Marino and Montecompatri are probably the best known. As always, there is a certain similarity between many of the wines grown in similar conditions but, in general, the dry *castelli* are fresh, full-bodied and firm: they are meant to be drunk with full-flavoured food such as *spaghetti alla carbonara* or *saltimbocca alla romana* (both local creations), while the *amabile* and *idolico* wines go well with such fruit as melons, figs and peaches.

These sweet wines are made from late-harvested grapes, subject to "noble rot" and fermentation is slow. All the wines are based on the *trebbiano* and *malvasia* grapes, other additions varying with the wines. They are all-purpose wines and can confidently be treated as such.

Est. Est II Est III di Montefiascone is made about 50 miles north of Rome, near Lake Bolsena. A pleasant, straw-golden coloured wine, lighter than its vinous "nose" suggests (about 11°) it comes in both dry and semi-sweet.

Fairly assessed, it is a pleasant enough wine, sometimes a trifle fizzy, but still remaining a favourite. They say it is at its best as an accompaniment to eels. There are a number of other wines from this dis-

trict, good when discovered on the spot, but Est I Est II Est III has certainly held the limelight, especially in export.

Aprilia is quite another story from the ancient tradition. It is an entirely modern wine-producing area, created in the late 1940s, on what had been a battle-ground after the Anzio landings and was, in fact, the drained Pontine Marshes; and its pioneer growers were displaced Italian farmers from the Mediterranean Littoral who had learnt their viticulture in North Africa.

Three DOC wines are produced in Aprilia, one white, one red and one rose. Trebbiano di Aprilia, the white, benefits greatly from the soil, volcanic and alluvial, with a good deal of silica. It is a rather soft, deep-yellow wine, tasting distinctly of the trebbiano grape and with a good, vinous nose, probably owing its character to the fact that the grape-skins are removed from the pressing very quickly and that the pressing itself is soft.

The rose, *Sangiovese di Aprilia*, is a most attractive wine, almost the colour of a ripe peach, quite dry, its characteristic colour being achieved by separating the red *sangiovese* grapes from their skins before they can stain the wine too deeply; and the same technique applies also to the Merlot di Aprilia, which is made from

a minimum 95 per cent of merlot grapes. Here again, the must is carefully controlled to allow only the right proportion of skins to remain in contact with the wine; and the result is a lovely garnet colour, with full grapey nose, excellent balance and a good deal more character than is achieved by most local wines. This is an interesting area to watch. The viticulture is modern and progressive.

I have dealt with some of the best known wines of Latium but there are few areas where more small wines flourish—at a rough estimate, there are something like 18 DOC wines, not including the fact that some come in red, white and rose. For the tourist, it also happens that this is one of the best regions in Italy in which to eat simply and deliciously, as the inhabitants have done for centuries.

To find a good osteria in the Alban Hills—there used to be scores but the tourists' insatiable demands have ruined too many—and to sit in the sunshine, eating plain roast meat—probably fine and crackly pork—with rough bread; and to quaff with it the host's own "best bottle" of bianco, is to be transported to classical times. It is an unforgettable gastronomic experience—and not only gastronomic!

Sicilian export confidence grows

by Pamela Vandyke Price

Sicily is an island rich in natural beauty, works of art—old wine. It is important to appraise its wines separately from those of the mainland. Everything about them is different.

In the past, Sicily was known chiefly for Marsala; the other table wines made on a large scale tended to be sent up to the north of Italy to the vermouth establishments. Fullish in style, somewhat aromatic and rather high in alcohol, they were excellent for that purpose, but lacked freshness and grace as table wines.

Travellers, thanks to the good roads, can explore Sicily and still find wines of that type in those cafés and restaurants that have plots of vines behind the house.

Progress in making wine has resulted in the great wineries beginning to establish their special styles and they look with confidence to export markets. Dry white wines are made with great skill and, for a southern vineyard, it is often astonishing to note how both bouquet and crispness are captured.

Sicilian reds can be full-bodied but there are plenty with a simple appeal with a supple style in the finer wines. As with many Mediterranean wines, the roses can be very good, deeper in colour than those of the

north, with a light fruity style.

Each region of Sicily makes wines of individuality. Those from the east have the mineral-like, almost bitter after-taste, suggestive of the volcanic soil on which many vineyards are laid out. Those from around Trapani have a light, gracious style; from Marsala the table wines can be fullish, with an agreeable, warm fruitiness and from Agrigento and Palermo, they tend to have slightly more crispness and a defined character.

Wines made in the interior, often in sharply terraced vineyards as compared with those of the undulating plains of the south, can be distinguished for firm, soft, lengthy flavours.

The use of the native Sicilian grapes—white *lozola*, *Caterraco*, *Greco*, *Black Pigmarillo*, *Nerello*, *Masalese* and *Frappato*—is being augmented with certain classic wine grapes, such as the *Sauvignon*. The stiffening of quality and extra definition that they provide has been recognized as valuable by oenologists who want Sicilian wines to be accepted abroad as more than simply the accompaniments to food in Italian restaurants.

Marsala, a wine which has evolved over two centuries, is far more interesting and subtle than those who enjoy the sweet variety as the base of zabaglione might suppose. Dry Marsala has an ele-

gance and alluringly warm style that could make it a novel winter aperitif.

The Marsala establishments of Ingham, Whittaker and Woodhouse are now part of the huge Florio installation, itself owned by Cinciano, but each firm makes a range of Marsalas, including some flavoured with almonds, chocolate and other additives. The dry Marsalas of Cerasulo and Carlo Pellegrino (who make fine table wines) should be sought out by discriminating lovers of wine.

Corvo is certainly Sicily's most famous exported wine. The makers, at Casteldaccia (one of the few places in the island where no vines are to be seen) use grapes from anywhere in Sicily they consider suitable to produce a "Sicilian style", dry, slightly "stony", white and a firm red.

Visitors should also try to find the Regaleali River, made from selected vineyard plots and the finest grapes harvested in them. First made in 1970, it is perhaps the herald of more estate wines that will be developed.

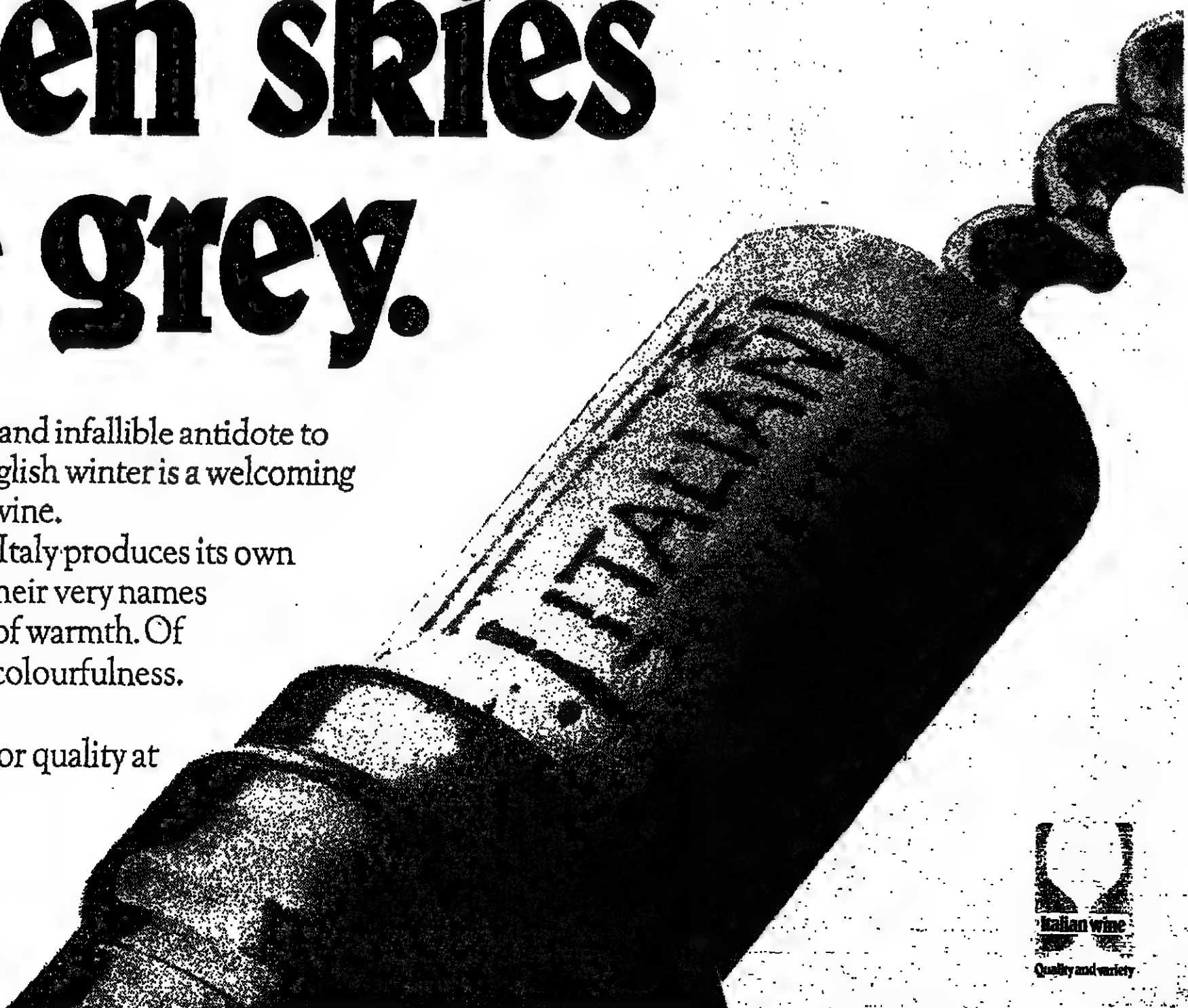
The moscato wines, especially those of Panellaria, will certainly please the traveller. They are intensely fruity rather than luscious and it is a pity that they are little known outside the island. Sicily's "bitter", the dark Averna, is a good digestive or aperitif, should the traveller feel that so many excellent things to eat and drink have, almost, jaded the palate.

Italian wine... when skies are grey.

One time-tried and infallible antidote to the rigours of an English winter is a welcoming glass of fine Italian wine.

Every region in Italy produces its own individual wines. Their very names conjure up a world of warmth. Of positively operatic colourfulness. And of good cheer.

Italian Wines. For quality at the right price.





RUSSIA STUMBLES IN AFRICA

At one time the Russians may have been reasonably confident that post-colonial Africa would fall into their lap. Their success in Angola will have strengthened their confidence, and the number of African leaders who pay lip service to socialism probably continues to prop up their hope that African history is moving broadly in their direction. But some doubts must now be creeping in, and Mr. Brezhnev seems to have felt called upon to comment on them in his anniversary speech on November 2. He acknowledged that the struggles of the former colonies could "now and again" result in zig-zags in the policies of the young states and sometimes even lead to "retreats", but he added reassuringly that "the overall trend of development is incontestable".

Perhaps it is, but if so the evidence is still fairly well concealed. In May Soviet experts were expelled from the Sudan. On Sunday Somalia announced that it is expelling Soviet military experts, withdrawing naval and other facilities, renouncing its treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union and breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba. This is a considerable setback for the Soviet Union, which seemed well established in Somalia. It is

also another reminder that nationalism is stronger than ideology in Africa.

It is still difficult to say whether the Soviet Union was fully aware of this when it started supporting the ostensibly Marxist regime in Ethiopia. It may have calculated that Ethiopia was larger and better placed than Somalia and decided to switch its allegiance accordingly, especially as Ethiopia is also host to the OAU. But it seems to have nurtured at least some illusions that a common ideology would bridge the enmity between the two. When President Castro went to Aden in the spring he suggested a "socialist union" of Aden, Somalia and Ethiopia, and he would not have done this without Soviet support.

The idea could look logical to someone in Moscow with a geographical or ideological map spread out before him. A political, tribal and religious map would have told a different and far more complex story. The Somalis believe they have a very strong claim to the Ogaden area and are not likely to give it up merely because a regime in Addis Ababa calls itself Marxist. Nor could Soviet moves do anything to strengthen Arab support for Somalia and for the Arab desire to make the Red Sea a "peace zone" free of domination by out-

side powers. This in turn could not fail to increase Ethiopia's worry that Somalia and the Sudan are trying to cut her off from access to the sea through newly-independent Djibouti, which carries about 80 per cent of her foreign trade.

Thus instead of achieving a comfortable union of three client states, the Soviet Union has exacerbated an already delicate and difficult situation and made itself bitterly hated in Somalia. The Arabs are now offering substantial aid to Somalia while the Israelis, allegedly with some American encouragement, find themselves in the curious position of supplying the Ethiopian forces with captured Russian weapons in a sort of tacit alliance with the Russians themselves, and their Cuban helpers. An odder and more unstable situation could scarcely be imagined. For the moment Somalia's military advance seems to have been halted by the much strengthened Ethiopians, but there is no reason to think that the fighting is going to stop. Nor is any easy answer in sight. If nothing else the Russians and the Americans should dust off their old agreement of 1972 in which they rather unrealistically promised not to try to take advantage of situations of this sort.

THE MONEY MATTERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On Friday Mr. Peter Shore will make his annual announcement of how much of next year's local government spending he means to meet from a central grant. It is usually an occasion full of anguish, with loud protestations that this time the Secretary of State has gone too far, and that unreasonable demands will have to be made of the ratepayers to make up. But this year, oddly enough, the anguish will almost be outweighed by other feelings, even including relief. The days are past when local spending was seen by all concerned as a yesty factor impossible to keep down. Councils have been so successful in keeping their expenditure within cash limits this year that there is some embarrassment over the possibility that they may even fall short. Their record is one that central government may indeed look on in some envy.

The other traditional object of interest in the Rate Support Grant announcement is the proportion of anticipated spending that the Government decides to accept the bill for. In each of the last two years progress has been made in bringing it down. But the Government will be more than usually anxious to avoid large rate rises in a year with important local elections and a good chance of a general election too. So little change can be expected.

All this means that the main excitement in the negotiations has not been between the local authority associations and

government, but between the associations themselves. There is always tension between shire counties and metropolitan authorities about the way the grant is shared. This year it has been the main bargaining point. Dissatisfaction with the intractable formula for distribution has never been so widespread. A Labour government is naturally predisposed to favour metropolitan areas, and this year the intention of concentrating resources on inner cities has already been made clear. But in an attempt to avoid loss of votes, another equation may be added to the formula to give relief to counties which come off worst in this exchange (the effects vary widely from one county to another). This fresh complication will give the distribution formula still less of a claim to be an objective system based on need. Since it assesses need largely in terms of what each council is spending already, it is as unrealistic as it is complex.

It will almost be a relief to the associations to have next year's RSG settlement made public. That will make manifest how restricted they are in responding to the wage claims of their employees. For their success this year in holding back spending has depended on the fact that rigid pay controls made wage bills predictable. Cash limits are to continue, but there is little prospect that settlements will remain within the bounds of their assumptions. Councils are

in danger of being trapped between importunate employees and an inflexible government: large rises for council workers will be reflected more directly than ever before in truncated services and higher rate demands.

All the publicity devoted lately to the firemen and miners has largely distracted attention from another set of pay negotiations which are in one respect more significant than either. Firemen and miners are groups relatively small in numbers: if they win excessive rises they will be important principally as examples to others. So will the council manual workers, whose representatives last week rejected a 10.1 per cent offer; but since there are a million of them, their settlement will also have a direct effect on purchasing power and inflation. Members of the National Union of Public Employees will be balloted over the next two weeks to see whether they endorse their "industrial" action. They include many whose pay is low and few who have any prospect of extra earnings through real or bogus productivity deals. At a time when there is so much pressure for the repair of differentials, a settlement over the odds would provide a base line for many others to build on. Cavillation to the firemen or the miners might be examined away more or less implausibly as exceptional; cavillation to the council manual workers would be to swing the door wide open to all.

POLITICAL STABILITY AT A PRICE IN NEPAL

Almost every country in Asia salutes democracy as a political ideal even if—temporarily, of course—states of emergency or military rule or other departures from representative government are actually in being. One country that seems to ignore this preference is Nepal, a monarchy where any monarch of the past might find royal authority functioning much as it did before universal franchise was ever heard of. This rejection of the ballot box has been sadly illustrated by the long political career of Mr. B. P. Koirala, the protagonist of democracy ever since the overthrow of the Rana regime in 1951. Last week he found himself rearrested to stand trial for treason.

Mr. Koirala had returned to Nepal from many years exile in India at the end of 1976 only to find himself arrested. Last June, with the King's authority and at the state's expense, he went to America for medical treatment declaring his intention to return, though perhaps hoping that when he did so the charges against him might be dropped. He has been disappointed. It seems that since his own overthrow as the first elected Prime Minister of

Nepal in 1960 his presence is still regarded as a danger. Nepal will seek to its "partyless panchayat" rather than risk an advance towards one man one vote.

In fact, the intention to rearrest Mr. Koirala had been indicated a few days before his return by Mr. Kirtinidhi Bista, who returned to office as Nepal's Prime Minister last September. Mr. Bista claimed that Nepal's political stability was the most reliable in South Asia and that this was due to the leadership of the King to which there could be no alternative. As expounded by another minister, partyless panchayat enable the people of Nepal to make known their aspirations to the King who is kept fully informed. An old-fashioned socialist like Mr. Koirala, who made some comments about his country while in America and who actually looked in on the Labour Party conference in Brighton, on his way home, scarcely fits with this kind of paternalism.

But there are other objections that tell against Mr. Koirala. Nepal's short history as a country has been one lived between China and India as major

powers. Nepal remained a tributary of China as late as 1908 but long before that British power in India had begun to matter much more. And since communist rule in China independent India has been the power watching over Nepal too closely, for Nepal's taste, has been making friends of the Chinese as a balance, thereby arousing Indian suspicion. Mr. Koirala's party has been modelled on the Indian Congress, and he having spent his exile in India, having been backed by Indian leaders and having had Mr. Chandra Shekhar, late of Congress now of the Janata Party, making the case in Kathmandu for his return to Nepal in freedom, it would not be surprising that the anti-Indian faction in Kathmandu should urge his continued detention. Dr. Tulsi Giri, the late Prime Minister, once suggested that India might treat Nepal as China had done Tibet: a remark that gave equal offence in Peking and in New Delhi. But with new governments in both these capitals Nepal's security between the two might soon seem less at risk. Meanwhile Mr. Koirala's political freedom is overdue.

Kral's visit to Britain

From Mr. George Mikos
Sir, Permit me to add a footnote to Bernard Levin's column on Václav Kral whom he called a scoundrel (November 21). Professors Cursten and Seaton-Vatson said in their letter (November 21) that "our information about this man agrees entirely with Bernard Levin's account." I can report yet another agreement, the Jews of Gustav Husak, the pocket-dictator of Czechoslovakia and the persecutor of Havel, Lederer and others.

A report of the Prague show trials of October 17 and 18 has just reached me through Czech friends. One of the recalled charges was that a manuscript, written by Dr. Kropotkin, a minister in President Beneš's Government, had been passed on by some of the accused for publication in the United States. Havel replied that the memoirs had been at one time intended for publication in Czechoslovakia itself and had become a

widely quoted source for scholarly historical research.

There was only one person, he went on, who called the memoirs untruthful and that was Václav Kral. He was not surprised, Havel added, but Kral's views were utterly worthless as the man had been called "notorious among historians for his methods" by Husak himself. As evidence, Havel went on to say, he would now read excerpts from Husak's essay, entitled "A Scroll Through History". In that essay, Havel remarked as a preliminary, Husak called Kral a known falsifier of history whose works are a dogmatic presentation of history.

At this point Havel was interrupted and prevented from reading the essay or even paraphrasing its contents. The presiding judge remarked: "This is of no interest to the court." What he meant, this is not in the interest of the court. I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKOS,
16 Dorchester Road, SW6.

What Cézanne painted

From Mr. George Butler
Sir, Mr. Broom, in his article (November 9) on the wonderful Cézanne exhibition in New York, repeats a curious error in the catalogue, which has often appeared in catalogues at the Tate. He refers to the "Mont" Ste Victoire.
I have lived within a kilometre of that "grand caillou", as the natives call it. A neighbour, who incidentally had once gone sketching with Paul Cézanne, admonished me for using the word "mont". He said "Mont Blanc" but "La Montagne Sainte Victoire".
Of course he was right, as all French maps show, and in fact the Ste Victoire is a long lozenge or chain, not a peak.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BUTLER,
Riversdale,
Castle Street,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire.
November 9.

Refurbishing the SS image

From Professor Willi Frischauer
Sir, While hoping that weightier voices than mine will be raised in protest against the invasion of Britain by ex-Nazi SS campaigners to publicise an encomium of their perverted organisation, I should like to remind a younger generation of some aspects of SS activities beyond those mentioned in Antony Terry's excellent account in yesterday's *Sunday Times Magazine* (November 13).

The SS propagandists make much play with the difference between the so-called Waffen-SS (military units) and other SS divisions such as the "Death Head Brigade" which supplied the concentration camp guards, the Leibstandarte (Hitler's praetorian guard) and others. But there was constant movement of officers and men from one division to another—SS General Otto Eicke, for instance, commander of the 1st concentration camp guard, was later transferred to the eastern front where he was killed.

Did this transfer at a late date involve him—and his men—from crimes committed against innocent prisoners of the rival SA (brown shirts) in the notorious Night of the Long Knives, the Røhm Putsch, in June 1934.
SS Brigades Gruppen (Action Groups) fought partisan wars in eastern Poland, which means that they were not only involved in the wholesale murdering of old men, women and children. Action Group leaders like SS General Oskar Dietrich were sentenced to death and executed after the war but many of his officers and men have survived. Again there was regular transfer from Waffen-SS to Action Groups and vice versa as there was between the Waffen-SS and the SD (Security Service) and the Gestapo, both SS departments.

All members of the SS were obliged to wear an oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler, the Führer, and to the German people. The oath was sworn by the SS members (with such exceptions as SS Colonel Adolf Eichmann) at the extermination of Jews, Poles, Russians, gypsies—to mention only a few categories of SS victims. The oath was sworn by the SS members at the extermination of Jews, Poles, Russians, gypsies—to mention only a few categories of SS victims. The oath was sworn by the SS members at the extermination of Jews, Poles, Russians, gypsies—to mention only a few categories of SS victims.

That survivors of these divisions should come to the attention of the public and the media is a tragedy. It is a tragedy that the survivors of these divisions should come to the attention of the public and the media is a tragedy. It is a tragedy that the survivors of these divisions should come to the attention of the public and the media is a tragedy.

And this would seem a matter for the Germans. But it takes on a different aspect when these SS men begin to export their campaign to foreign countries. That they should come to the attention of the public and the media is a tragedy. It is a tragedy that the survivors of these divisions should come to the attention of the public and the media is a tragedy.

Employment in Russia

From Mr. Yorick Wilks
Sir, Mr. Kiron is surely right to remind us, on the sixtieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, of the Soviet achievement in overcoming unemployment problems. There are, after all, more than a hundred thousand men joining the Red Army each year. And since communist rule in China independent India has been the power watching over Nepal too closely, for Nepal's taste, has been making friends of the Chinese as a balance, thereby arousing Indian suspicion. Mr. Koirala's party has been modelled on the Indian Congress, and he having spent his exile in India, having been backed by Indian leaders and having had Mr. Chandra Shekhar, late of Congress now of the Janata Party, making the case in Kathmandu for his return to Nepal in freedom, it would not be surprising that the anti-Indian faction in Kathmandu should urge his continued detention. Dr. Tulsi Giri, the late Prime Minister, once suggested that India might treat Nepal as China had done Tibet: a remark that gave equal offence in Peking and in New Delhi. But with new governments in both these capitals Nepal's security between the two might soon seem less at risk. Meanwhile Mr. Koirala's political freedom is overdue.

There is little doubt that we could abolish unemployment at a stroke, as this was by allowing employment in these categories to rise to the proportions enjoyed by our Soviet comrades. I trust that Mr. Kiron, on his return, will be pressing such red-blooded measures on his colleagues in the National Executive Committee, so as to show the sort of Labour Party he wants: a genuine alternative to the milkop measures against unemployment which we have seen from this Government.
Yours sincerely,
YORICK WILKS,
University of Essex,
Department of Language and Literature,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester,
Essex.
November 9.

Silencing burglar alarms

From Mr. Anthony Bailey
Sir, The interesting thing about burglar alarms is that no one associates their endless ringing with burglars. Many of the children in this neighbourhood know how to set them off by banging a window frame or kicking a door.

Recent one of the alarms near us changed away (I timed it) for an hour and a half before I called the police station. The officer on duty said: "Oh yes, we know about that one—adding, as is usual, 'We're trying to track down the key-holder.' I asked when he had been notified. He said, 'Three minutes ago.' I pointed out that the alarm had been sounding for one hour and 27 minutes before anyone did anything about it. 'We know,' he said. 'No one pays any attention to them unless they want them stopped.' Obviously a good time to commit a burglary is when an alarm is sounding.
Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY BAILEY,
63 Royal Hill,
Greenwich, SE10.
November 8.

Employers' offer to firemen

From Mr. Martin Brannan
Sir, As Employers' Chairman of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades, I should like to clarify our position in the present dispute.

On Friday last, after lengthy talks with the union negotiators, we confirmed our previous offer of a 10 per cent wage increase as from November 7 still stood, this being the maximum figure possible within Government guidelines. We also agreed to continue discussions with a view to establishing a pay formula for the Qualified Firemen, to be implemented when conditions permit and to be one that would stand up to scrutiny and be valid in the longer term.

In view of the statement in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary on November 9 that a 42-hour week for firemen instead of the present 48-hour week could be permitted after autumn 1978 and in view of the subsequent registering of this claim by the union, we agreed that a full investigation should be commenced forthwith into the issues involved. A recent Home Office report on the subject of a shorter working week stressed that it ought to be introduced in the most cost effective manner making maximum use of time available for work. However it is accomplished, there will be a considerable cost factor and it must be presumed that adequate funds will be made available for the extra staff required for this purpose. The two matters, i.e. the wage formula and the proposed shorter working week, have been referred to the Joint Secretaries so that they may identify the problems and report back to the National Council at its meeting on November 16.

The National Employers' Association, deeply regret the present industrial action and hope that, in the light of the steps being taken, there can be an early and orderly return to normal working. As employers, we have the utmost regard for the well-being and the reputation of the British Fire Service and have no intention of allowing the talks either to break down or become bogged down. There are however many far-reaching aspects which must be investigated as to enable acceptable conditions to be fairly arrived at and this can be done the more readily in the context of normal working.

Yours truly,
MARTIN BRANNAN,
Llangyfelach,
Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire,
November 14.

From Mr. C. J. P. Power
Sir, I am becoming more than a little bored with hearing appeals to the British Fire Service by certain groups who are intending to, or who are taking, industrial action, whether to a greater or lesser degree. Does the Government

Legislation on race

From Mr. Geoffrey Bindman
Sir, Mr. Butt evidently resents Mr. David Lane's charge that his article on the Race Relations Act (October 27) distorted and misleads, but his answer to the accusation itself contains a serious error. The Commission for Racial Equality is not entitled to take up any complaint. It may assist individuals to pursue their own cases, but only when they seek assistance, and when the charges (allegedly) laid down in section 56 of the Act are satisfied.

However, this is a minor element in the very unbalanced picture which Mr. Butt paints of a moderate and necessary piece of legislation. The following points, absent from Mr. Butt's account, show that it is neither "impalpable" nor oppressive, and that it can be effective.
1. The Act does not attempt to ban racial prejudice, thoughts or the expression of prejudiced opinions; harmful discriminatory conduct in matters of social or economic importance is its only target. Mr. Butt's Dr. Johnson story nicely illustrates the distinction: he may have been prejudiced against the Scotch, but he had the wisdom and decency not to discriminate against them. The law does not and should not penalize attitudes, but judges are quite capable of assessing conduct.

The Zinoviev Letter

From Mr. Cyril Zinoviev
Sir, Since the most convincing arguments in favour of the genuineness, at least concerning the substance, of the "Zinoviev Letter" are contained in Mr. Grant's article in *Soviet Studies* (Vol. XIX, 1967), which none of the *Times* correspondents on the subject appear to have seen, let me refer to two points out of the many she makes.

1. The Zinoviev Letter, dated November 15 1924, reached the British Foreign Office on October 10 1924. It reproduced the sense and some of the actual expressions and phrases of a resolution passed at the 5th Congress of the Communist International, addressed specifically to the British Communist Party. The Congress took place in June 1924, but the text of the resolution was released in 1925. The writer(s) of the "Zinoviev Letter" must, therefore, have had access to the resolution before it was published—not something likely to have been accomplished by anti- or non-Communist forgers.

2. With only two exceptions, all the men mentioned or suggested as the letter's forgers have turned out later to be either Soviet agents or closely connected with Soviet agents. Attempts to discredit the authenticity of the letter by pointing out errors have so far failed: the "errors" have on examination turned out not to be such. Messrs. Rothstein and Paze Scott (*The Times*, November 9) scoff at the letter because it refers to non-existent "military cells", yet it is precisely to "cells in bourgeois armies" that the Comintern resolution refers and the "Zinoviev Letter" duly repeats.
In any case, the fact that the substance of the "Zinoviev Letter" is contained in the Comintern resolution surely makes the question of whether it was or was not "genuine" entirely irrelevant.
Yours etc.
CYRIL ZINOVIEFF,
2 Arlington Cottages,
Sutton Lane, W4.

have no other ideas, or does it believe that such appeals have some magic ingredient which, having worked so often in the past, will do the trick again? To me, it looks like a dead horse.

Are we not prepared to suffer a little darkness or take more care in fire prevention so as to support the Government in its attempts to resuscitate the economy, and is that Government not prepared to take on its shoulders the burden of doing the job it was elected to do? It would seem that such is the case and that we will continue to ask those who provide important services to work longer hours or to receive less pay than we would ourselves be prepared to accept.

The right to withdraw labour or to decline to work overtime is basic to our political and economic system so let us make up our minds to be socially responsible and pay for work done, or else accept the inconvenience for as long as is necessary or we can stand it.
Yours faithfully,
C. J. P. POWER,
Barley End House,
Woodmanscote,
Near Emsworth,
Hampshire.
November 11.

From Mr. A. G. W. Scott
Sir, I am not a supporter of the Labour Party but fairness prohibits agreement with the views expressed by Sir Kenneth Corley and the Reverend Montague Eiden that in no circumstances is there moral justification for strikes and that they should always be treated as a form of blackmail.

Should not the actions which deserve all of your correspondents' attention be confined to unpopular actions, strikes at short notice, working to rule and withdrawal of labour whilst meetings are held. Such actions must almost always be a breach of contract with the employers concerned and in any other context retribution would follow. The innocent public are not only made to suffer but, in addition, are subjected to nauseating statements that "inconvenience" to the public is regrettable whilst good care has been taken to choose a time and place which will cause the greatest possible inconvenience and suffering.

This is blackmail, and should no longer be tolerated in a civilized society. Surely the time has come for the Government and the TUC to agree upon legislation with sufficient bite to make such illegal and immoral actions impossible. This would not only protect the public but strengthen the position of the unions who must, and usually do, conduct their negotiations in a constitutional manner.
Yours faithfully,
A. G. W. SCOTT,
5 Breakspere,
College Road,
Dulwich, SE21.
November 12.

Head teachers and governors' powers

From Mr. H. R. Eastgate
Sir, May a non-disinterested head with a thriving Parent-Teachers Association inform Dr. Midwinter (November 10) that there are grave doubts about the viability of jumble sales, Christmas markets, summer fairs, visits to the Wakefield Theatre Club, and trips to the Isle of Wight, etc. as occasions for the election of school governors if only from considerations of electoral roll, possible patronage, etc. Events which attract the greatest numbers of parents also attract many non-parent adults. They also repel a significant number of excellent parents.

However, the crucial weakness in the Taylor Report comes early on in Para 3.17, "and as much discretion in turn granted to the head-teacher by the governing body as is compatible with the latter's responsibility for the success of the school in all its activities." Responsible to whom? Accountable to whom? The Director of Education and I are responsible and accountable to the Education Committee. Our very jobs and our professional reputations are at stake.

What will the members of a Taylor style governing body have at stake? Reappointment at the end of their four year stint?
Yours faithfully,
H. R. EASTGATE,
Headmaster, the Benjamin Gutt High School,
Leenhurst Avenue, Leeds.
November 10.

From the Reverend John Kew
Sir, The issues of the debate about parental choice of education within the maintained school system are well set out in your leading article of November 9. But why should parents' choice depend so heavily on a plurality of schools in one locality?

My recent visit to an exciting "community school" in Massachusetts has convinced me that a wide variety of parental choice can be exercised within a single school. Under one roof and one administration I discovered the encouragement of different patterns and styles of education, from extreme academic normality to an atmosphere of free expression and discovery. The rights of parents were recognized and their involvement invited in the "allocation" of their children to particular classes and courses.

Surely the necessary rationalization you expect in Britain, in the interests of economy and efficiency, affords a splendid opportunity for parents' rights to be enhanced and for teachers' skills and preferences to be developed within schools of diverse character and tradition. Would not such schools enshrine vital "comprehensive" principles too?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN KEW,
Vicar of Redditch,
248 Birchfield Road,
Redditch, Worcestershire.

London Film Festival

From the Director of the British Film Institute
Sir, James Quinn's letter concerning the London Film Festival (November 11) leaves me somewhat perplexed. Naturally the British Film Institute is proud of the 25 years of remarkably successful activity achieved by the National Film Theatre which is one of its departments, and the more recent coming of age of the London Film Festival for which it is also responsible. As I write this response to his letter, headlines from two national journals celebrating this event lay before me on my desk, showing that at least as far as the press is concerned the message has got through.

Perhaps Mr. Quinn believes that we should spend money (public or private) on other kinds of celebration, and indeed the LFF has organized its fair share of appropriate events. We do feel, however, that we should spend our resources making accessible as many of the best films as possible, and bringing to this country many of the film makers whose work is being shown in the Festival, and this is what we have done.
The 21st London Film Festival, which is opened this evening (November 14) by Lord Donaldson, Minister for the Arts, is truly celebrated by the many thousands of cinemagoers who will have an opportunity of seeing the films which make up the Festival programme.
Yours faithfully,
KEITH LUCAS,
Director,
British Film Institute,
21 Dean Street, W1.
November 14.

Classical top ten
From Mr. David Chesterman
Sir, Analysis of all symphonies scheduled for performance at the Royal Albert and Royal Festival Halls during 1977 reveals that Beethoven's lead over all comers is now higher than it has ever been since my calculations started 26 years ago. He clocks up 60, with Mozart, the runner-up, a mere 26, and Tchaikovsky (with two M-fred's) 25.
Brahms has done well with 22, ahead of Mahler with 18 2 5 (Adagio of No. 3 and Adagio of No. 10). Haydn remains in the same wily 17, and Dvorak with 15, followed by Schubert (14), Bruckner (14) and Shostakovich (11). As eleventh man, Sibelius scores a respectable 10.

The outright winner (11 times) is the "New World" symphony of Dvorak, which claimed similar honours in 1974 and 1975, to be temporarily ousted in 1976 by Beethoven's "Eroica".
Readers may like to note some symphonies by the Ton Teu composers which do not figure at all this year: Dvorak Nos. 1-4 inclusive, Schubert Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, Bruckner Nos. 1, 6 and Shostakovich Nos. 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Hertfordshire.
November 12.

Social Focus

A missed opportunity that may have cost the clergy the pay rise they need

A recent correspondence in *The Times* has emphasized the inadequacy of clergy stipends in these inflationary days. Publication of the accounts of the Church Commissioners for the year ended March 31, 1977, shows that it could have been possible for the commissioners to have remedied the situation at a stroke if they had chosen to do so.

The accounts show that at that date they had Stock Exchange investments valued at £265,031,000 and these were nationally earning 6.84 per cent per annum at that date. The actual income from Stock Exchange investments during the year was £17,153,000. If that 265,031,000 had been reinvested during the year in long-dated government securities it could now be earning 15 per cent or £39,754,500, an increase of £22,601,500, which would have been secured until well into the twenty-first century; and on redemption the securities would make a big capital gain in monetary terms.

There are 9,295 incumbents and clergy of incumbent status in the Church of England (latest figures). Let us throw in the superior clergy and a good measure call the figure 10,000. If the policy suggested by the commissioners could have afforded to pay each of them an extra £2,000 a year, kept a

useful balance in hand each year and ended up in 2015 with far more money than they had at the beginning. These are arithmetical facts, easily verified. Why have the commissioners not followed the policy?

They have recognized the force of the argument in two ways. They point out that "43.5 per cent of their Stock Exchange portfolio income is derived from fixed interest stocks"—that is, 43.5 per cent of the income comes from only 20.1 per cent of the assets—but they regard this as an argument for staying still instead of doing more. Second, "the Commissioners continued during the year their policy of taking advantage of the high interest rates obtainable from fixed interest stock exchange securities and at the same time preserving some degree of future income growth by capitalising part of the improved income".

In fact they invested a further £3,052,000, partly from the sale of equities, bringing the investment under this heading to £10,089,000. The income for the year from these securities was £847,000, of which £423,000 was capitalized. This recognizes the force of the policy here advocated but the commissioners have merely dipped their toes into the water instead of plunging in boldly.

Why are they so hesitant? There are two reasons:

First, while expressing the hope that inflation will be brought under control, they have based their policy on the assumption that it will continue at a high rate. It is already evident that they have judged wrongly, but even if inflation were to continue at 16.7 per cent the right policy would be to give the clergy only an extra £1,000 a year and to reinvest half the increased income under the policy here advocated, which even now would give the commissioners an increased Stock Exchange income of £1,200,000 each year, precisely what they obtained in the year just ended.

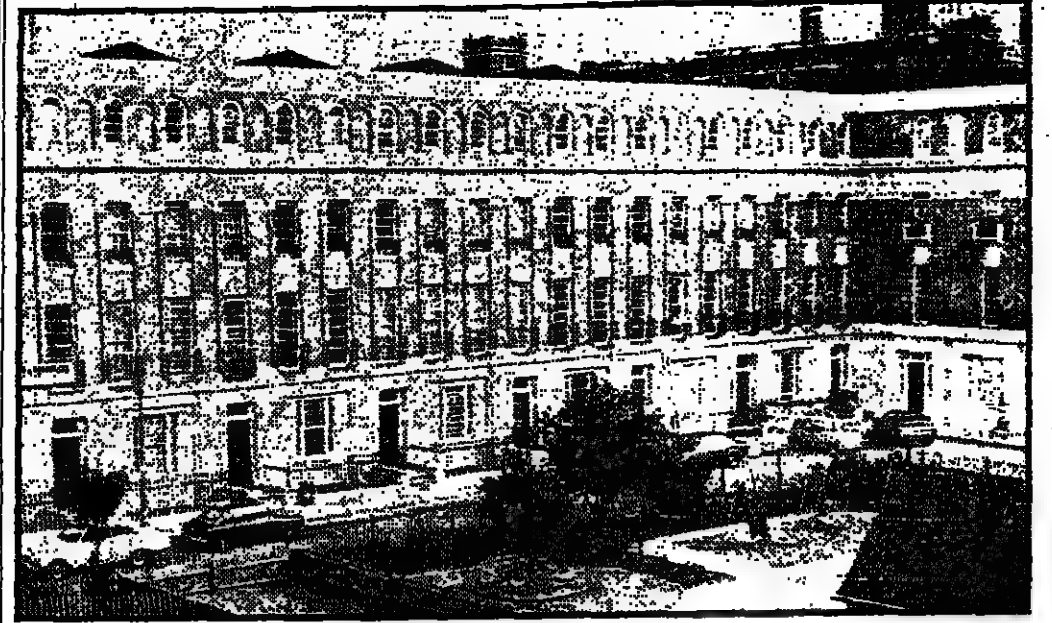
Secondly, they believe that the income from their investment in equities, though now modest—the rate on March 31 was only 5.3 per cent—will grow. No doubt it will, but we must expect dividend limitation to continue, whatever government is in power, as a bargaining counter with the trade unions, and though ways will be found round it in particular cases the benefits are not likely to be so great as investment in gilts and reinvestment of half the proceeds would have been. The commissioners prefer assets backed by physical resources to assets backed by the credit of the British government, but physical assets are of little value if they become exhausted or cease to be in demand, and when we consider

what has happened to such famous names as Rolls-Royce, British Leyland and Slater Walker we may wonder whether "the gnomes of Millbank" will always be able to "play the market" correctly.

The commissioners took an adventurous step in 1950 in deciding to enter the equity market in a big way. For many years the policy paid. But those were the days when the yield on equities was consistently higher than on gilts, and there was also real growth. But times have changed, and we have long had a big "reverse yield gap". The insurance companies and other big investors have taken advantage of this changed situation by investing in government securities on a large scale, and apart from the greater income they have seen a substantial rise in the value of their holdings. The commissioners have failed to move with the times, and the opportunity they have lost may never recur. Now they could earn only 10.4 per cent, not 15. "Jobbing backwards" is an unwise and unproductive exercise, so let it be said that the commissioners were warned long ago that, while the bus was still waiting, it would not wait for ever. They have now missed it, and it is the clergy who suffer.

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas

Building new homes is not always the best answer to housing problems



Early Victorian Houses in Milner Square, London, converted into flats for about 500 people by Islington Council at a total cost (including purchase) of some £2,700,000.

In a recent article in *The Times*, Lord Eccles placed the improvement in the housing of those who are poorly housed as the nation's first priority—without of decent place to live in, he asked, how can you think of society as fair? The statistics in the Housing Policy Green Paper justify the question, but obscure the solution. While the consultative document may be commended for its overall commonsense, it avoids any commitment as to the balance between investment in new construction and investment in the improvement and perpetuation of the existing housing stock. Yet there are so many vital questions to pose than how many new houses do we need to build each year and how much do we need to spend on our existing houses in order to ensure that by 1986 there are no longer families living in houses that are unfit for human habitation.

In this question lies the first statistical and semantic trap, for any official analysis designates the ultimate state of the housing stock in terms of fitness or unfitness—a statutory description not much changed in its conception since the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919. Thus the Green Paper is able to show that we have eliminated 248,000 unfit houses since 1971 in England and Wales—but 500,000 still remain; there has been a startling 43 per cent increase in the numbers of houses requiring repairs costing more than £1,000 (£2,350 at 1976 prices), and there are more than 1,500,000 so-called "fit" houses in England alone in a state of serious disrepair requiring more than £1,000 spent on each of them at today's prices. To these numbers must be added a further million houses that are fit but lacking one or more basic amenities. To deal solely with the provision of missing amenities and the modernizing of the overall property is indicated at close to £8,000—equivalent to more than 10 times the total capital expenditure spent on all grant aided improved—in 1975—which at the most includes 50 per cent repair work.

As the Green Paper says, at least one in 10 of every household in England and Wales are living in circumstances which are just not acceptable. In the view of the National Home Improvement Council there are still more than 3,000,000 houses below what should be defined as the minimum habitability standard (the term unfit should be pensioned off).

The conclusion must be reached that we have greatly misjudged the amount of money that we have to invest and make available in order to ensure that our existing stock of houses does not fall into premature obsolescence—the Green Paper perpetuates this misjudgment.

During the past 10 years we have relied more on demolition than improvement for the elimination of substandard housing and in so doing we have destroyed precisely the kind of housing in terms of scale and identity that are most likely to be required in the future. By 1986 the policy review estimates that slum clearance will have been completed—any demolition beyond that date will be of habitable stock—or stock we have neglected in the intervening 10 years that it has become unfit—thus the housing stock will be larger and older—with for example 7,000,000 houses more than 65 years old in 1966 (compared with 4,700,000 in 1975) or some 2,500,000 over 105 years old (1,630,000).

How much should we be spending on the upkeep of that stock and how many new houses can we afford to add at the same time? The review for England and Wales avoids an opinion—the Scots are less recent. The Scottish Green Paper suggests a radical reduction in the rate of new housing—mainly in the public sector—and observes that "the extent of the estimated departure from the level of building which has been customary in the past may seem surprising."

There is a remarkable wealth of valuable data and analysis in the Technical Volumes for England and Wales, but the complex projections and tables on the other hand strain both credulity and arithmetic perspicacity. The central Environment Department projection indicates a level of new housing (1975-1986) above the 1971-1975 average—notwithstanding zero population growth, a rising vacancy rate and slower household formation (135,000 each year compared with 205,500 between 1966-1970 and 159,000 between 1971-1975). For every 1,000 new households formed between 1966 and 1970 we built in Great Britain 1,795 houses and 1,649 between 1971 and 1975, thus the consequences of continuing at the present rate of new building over the next decade would be to create 1,780 new houses for every 1,000 new households. In the past there was a deficit of stock to households, and the surplus built went to replace houses demolished and to accumulate a margin of houses to households and vacant stock. We cannot blindly continue the accumulation of surplus new stock with the result, based on the deficit of 3,000,000 substandard occupied stock that require investment for modernization and repair.

Improvement investment represents an alternative investment option to demolition and rebuilding activities involving raising capital, obtaining loans and providing subsidies

but the projection of total investment and subsidy will be critically dependent on the mix—new to improved—and also the balance between public and private.

On average during the past three years about 77 per cent of the housing investment in dwellings was for new building and 23 per cent for improvement—the latter representing about 4 per cent of the total domestic fixed capital formation.

In their estimate of the housing stock situation, the NHC have shown that many families in 1986 will still be occupying houses not suitable for human habitation in 1986 and very probably in 1996 unless we double the present rate of improvement investment and thereby add an extra 1,250,000 fit houses to the stock, by 1986.

The proportion of the gross domestic fixed capital formation applied to dwellings has never varied by much more than 1 per cent over the past 15 years (three year averages at 1970 prices). If total housing investment cannot be increased then the consequences of doubling the present level of investment (at 1970 prices) to say 8 per cent of GDFCF would mean a reduction of £400m per annum from new housing investment. This in turn would amount to a reduction of present new building to about 245,000 per annum for the United Kingdom or about 210,000 for England and Wales.

The public sector improvement share was numerically very much the greater (40 per cent of grant aid went to the public sector—which contains only 20 per cent of the substandard stock). Clearly a large share of the reduction would fall on public sector new building but to ensure that the released funds find their way into improvement instead of being transferred elsewhere will above all else demand that loans for improvement are as freely available as loans for new housing—irrespective of the state of the unimproved property—and that they carry the same tax benefits.

Those who refuse to accept any of this must select from the three choices challenged presented in the Scottish Review—a very high vacancy rate, widespread demolition of houses of a good standard, or substantial under-occupation. The same message can be extracted from the Technical Volumes for England and Wales but it is rather hard work.

P. A. Denison

The author is Hon Director of Research Studies, National Home Improvement Council, Director of the Building and Insulation Division of Cape Industries.

Power without responsibility: a bleak prospect for education

Education in Britain is part of the totality of local government. It is regrettable that the Taylor Committee in its report has sought to obscure this fact. Its proposals for the composition of governing bodies take us one step further from an elected democracy, one step nearer to a corporate state. Councillors undoubtedly have their defects, but they do have an overview of the whole of local services and they are accountable to the electorate. To whom will these new governors be accountable?

Teachers clearly can be answerable to the staff, preferably as representatives and not as delegates. Experience with parent-governors has varied: in some cases the elections have been a great success, in others a low poll is combined with a situation where the parent-governor does not feel accountable to any clearly defined body. They can easily become prey to take-over bids by unrepresentative pressure groups which abound in education as elsewhere.

The proposed recruitment of representatives from industry, commerce and "the community" is even more anomalous: on what basis will these governors be selected? To whom will they be answerable? In effect they will tend to be the acquaintances—or supporters—of members of the other three groups. A divorce policy from financial control is highly undesirable. Decisions on the curriculum as well as aspects

of internal organization and provision often need the expenditure of large sums of money. If they are to be satisfactorily implemented, the curriculum is the preserve of the governors but financial control rests with the local education authority. In this way governors could, for example, have voted for the introduction of Nuffield Science without the ability to finance the necessary expenditure.

The proposal to prevent people from serving on more than one governing body is deplorable. The ability of governors to compare the achievements and shortcomings of different schools will be seriously impaired. Members who sit on several governing bodies can see the needs of the school in the overall context of educational provision in the authority. It is part of the responsibility of a governor to represent the needs of the school to the authority: it is equally his task to help the school to understand its position as part of the whole local education service. As a headmaster, I have often welcomed the advice of governors who have been able to relate my requests to the needs of the authority as a whole and to the requirements of other schools in the area.

The Taylor proposals would create boards of governors with some power but little responsibility. In giving to parents, teachers and outside agencies the illusion of control when the real financial responsibility

rests with the council, they are deliberately establishing bodies doomed to frustration. The creation of unrealistic expectations has been one of the serious problems of British public life since the war.

Finally there is a crucial political issue. Under our system of local government, candidates inevitably seek election on a platform of proposed measures. This is essential to a lively local democracy. Educational "promises" form part of the programme. The elected majority needs the institutional power to implement its promises. Although all my 20 years in local government have been spent in minority, I would never seek to deny a majority party the right to introduce democratically the policy on which it was elected. Taylor would make this harder to achieve.

Members of the committee are entitled to the view that the present constitutional arrangements for local government and the place of education within it are in need of radical reform. In which case let them say so. But to attempt in this way to reorganize the powers and composition of governing bodies within our present framework does no service to education, local government or democracy.

Geoffrey Samuel

The author is a former head of a comprehensive school, and chairman of the board of governors of another one.



Johnnie Walker

The confident choice since 1820



JOHN WALKER & SONS LTD, SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

هذرا مصادق

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Bank of England moves to widen its operations lead to a rift with clearers

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

In an important new departure the Bank of England has made tentative approaches to public bodies like local authorities and nationalised industries to persuade them to switch their main accounts away from the London clearing banks to the Bank.

This has led to a rift between the Bank and the clearers over the latter's request that the Bank bear its full share of the cost of using the central clearing house system for cheques if it moves further into the commercial banking sphere.

Should the switch happen it will result in the Bank making much heavier use of the clearing facilities. The Bank is already a member of the clearing house on account of the commercial banking business it carries out.

This is limited to a handful of bodies like the Inland Revenue and a few local authorities such as the Greater London Council, employee accounts and a few other prestige accounts, and the number of cheques passing through the clearing system on the Bank's behalf is insignificant.

If the Bank does step up its use of the clearing system, however, the "reciprocity agreement" which is central to the equitable operation of the clearing house will break down since there is no two-way flow

of cheques between the clearers and the Bank.

As it is now structured the pattern of debits and credits among the participants tends to balance out, involving only small adjustments at the end of every working day.

What the clearing banks are now seeking is an undertaking from the Bank of England that if it does become more closely involved in money transmission services it should be fully charged for using the clearers' facilities.

At the moment, the clearers, through the Committee of London Clearing Banks, are at the stage of making their position clear. It is understood that the Bank's line is that its responsibilities to the clearing system are discharged on presentation of cheques at the clearing house.

Meanwhile, the Bank justifies its involvement in commercial banking on the ground that it is not changing the pulse of the banking system if it is to carry out its broader functions effectively.

A spokesman for the Bank claimed yesterday that "we are not changing the pulse of the banking system with increasing pressure on public bodies to effect their business as economically as possible, he admitted that it was quite possible that the Bank would submit tenders if asked by a public body. It is thought that a number of such tenders have already been sent out.

While these developments are only obliquely linked with the current Price Commission investigation into bank charges, there is a widespread belief that an increase in charges to the nationalised industries by the clearers was one of the main reasons for the present investigation.

What is also starting to concern some clearing banks is that this latest move could presage a greater involvement by the Bank in the commercial banking field where its access to confidential information, not only on industry but also individual banks could create some conflicts of interest.

They feel that the Bank should restrict its operations to purely central bank functions.

At the same time there is some disquiet that the Bank no longer represents the City's view in Whitehall quite as effectively as it did, although in its evidence to the Wilson Committee the Bank went to some lengths to stress its "neutrality".

The clearers have been particularly upset by the apparent failure of the Bank to support its proposals for an adjustment to monetary items in the inflation accounting debate. Also, plans to give the Bank statutory powers over the banking system have raised questions about its future relationship with the clearing banks.

Financial Editor, page 21

Falls in industrial output and retail sales underline sluggish economy

By Caroline Atkinson

Clear evidence of the depressed state of the "real" economy came yesterday with the publication of official figures showing that industrial output fell in September and retail sales in October were lower for the second month running.

Although the figures are only provisional, and the falls recorded only slight, they offer little cheer to the Government.

The continued failure of the economy to pick up significantly this year is now receiving more attention from both the Government and its critics. Britain's financial health has improved dramatically, but this has not yet led to a revival in terms of greater output or more jobs.

Mr Hesley's latest mini-Budget will go some way to encourage faster growth in the economy, and officials were yesterday emphasizing that the future looks much brighter than the past as shown in these figures.

However, the Government's fiscal stance, as measured by the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR), after the latest measures is still more restrictive than the original intention agreed with the International Monetary Fund last year.

The latest official forecasts are for a rise of 31 per cent in gross national product in the year to end 1978. This, it is maintained, will be fast enough to curtail the trend of rising unemployment.

However, internal Treasury forecasts see the bulk of this growth coming in the second half of next year, with a measure 11 per cent annual rate of growth forecast for the next six months.

One reason for the disappointing performance of industrial production in the past few months is that there was a lot of involuntary stockpiling earlier in the year.

Industry is meeting such increases in demand as there have been by running down some of these stocks.

In the past three months

industrial output as a whole has risen by about 1 per cent at an annual rate, it now stands 1 per cent above the level of a year earlier.

Manufacturing industry has done a little worse. Output in the third quarter of this year was 1 per cent lower than last year and scarcely changed from the previous three months.

Industries which have performed best in the latest few months have been food, metal, machinery and textiles, and are typically those which did worst earlier in the year. The overall picture is one of continued sluggishness.

Mining and quarrying has been the one bright spot with a 19 per cent rise in output between the third quarter of 1976 and the same time this year. But the rapid expansion came to a halt over the summer.

Consumer industries grew by 11 per cent between the second and third quarters. Meanwhile output in investment and intermediate goods industries fell by 1 per cent.

Tables, page 20

Britain's export competitiveness eroded

Continued from page 1

Current account surplus will be lower next year than some earlier estimates had suggested, even though we will be rapidly moving towards self-sufficiency in oil. A current account surplus of only about £1,500m is now officially predicted for 1978.

Equally, it is clear that Britain is suffering a steady erosion of its export competitiveness. This is even before the pound was allowed to appreciate on the international currencies markets at the end of last month.

According to the key index of export competitiveness used by the technicians of the International Monetary Fund, prices of our goods sold overseas improved 18 per cent in the year to last year. By late summer, a third of this improvement had been eroded.

There were a number of special factors behind the £148m fall in exports and the £29m fall in imports during October. Government statisticians calculate that movements of exceptional costly items like precious stones, ships, aircraft and North Atlantic exports were responsible for about two thirds of the fall in exports and half the fall in imports last month.

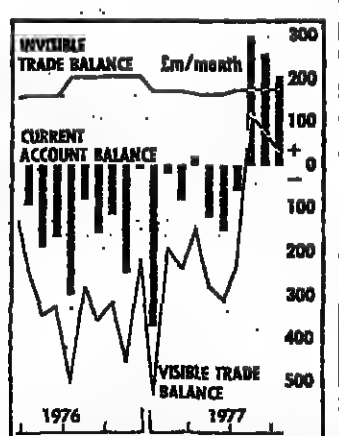
In addition, the American east coast docks strike, which began on October 1, may have reduced exports and imports last month.

Yet, while these factors would account for the fall of 41 per cent in the volume of exports last month, they do not explain why the volume of exports have increased by only 1 per cent during the past three months, compared with the previous three months.

Special factors have also dis-

guised to some extent the underlying volume trend of imports. According to the official figures, the volume of imports dropped by 6 per cent between May/July and August/October, but when special items are excluded, it would appear that the volume of imports showed no such fall.

Tables, page 20



Insurance shares slump after rights issue surprises market

Commercial Union to raise £73.8m

By Richard Allen

Commercial Union Assurance the country's largest insurance group, yesterday launched a £73.8m rights issue—its second within three-and-a-half years—to support what the group describes as "prudent growth" over the next few years.

Although speculation about a CU funding operation has been rife for several weeks, the size and timing of the issue surprised the stock market and caused a heavy shakeout in insurance shares. There was evidence that some Scottish institutions had rejected underwriting opportunities.

CU is asking shareholders to take up new shares at 130p on the basis of one for every six held, representing a discount on Friday night's closing price of 151 per cent. But the group's shares tumbled 14p on the news to close last night at 140p.

Speculation that other companies may follow the lead caused shares of Royal Insurance, which reports its third quarter results today, to slump 20p to 385p. Sun Alliance fell back 33p to 572p and General Accident closed 12p lower at 240p.

CU's call was accompanied by nine months' pre-tax profits figures nearly 140 per cent higher, at £56.7m, and the 10p bonus of 10 per cent dividend increase for the current year taking the ex-rights yield to just under 81 per cent.

Stockbrokers to the issue, Cazenove and Hoare Govett, said yesterday that the

underwriting had gone "satisfactorily".

However, it is understood that some institutional shareholders, particularly in Scotland have taken strong exception to the issue coming at a time when CU stock from the 1974 162m rights issue and the £42m share takeover of Eastern Flower Investment Trust earlier this year is still acting as a severe depressant on the market.

The rights call comes after a heavy rationalization programme and a boardroom row which resulted in Mr Gordon Dunlop resigning his £53,400-a-year post as chief executive in June and being replaced by Mr Jack Emms.

Mr Emms said yesterday that although the present level of shareholders funds is well in excess of statutory requirements the board felt that they should be strengthened further to provide a suitable margin for prudent growth.

As a result of the new cash shareholders funds should increase from about £514m to £588m representing around 52 per cent of the written non-life premium income for the 12 months to September 30. This puts the CU's solvency ratio into the middle range of British insurance groups.

Mr Emms said yesterday that the recent sale of its German and Austrian subsidiaries for £15m combined with strong premium discipline had already got the solvency ratio moving in the right direction.

But, he said, further funds were thought desirable particularly to accommodate growth in business arising from premium rate increases and from the effects of inflation on sums insured.

Results for the first 9 months of this year actually show a reduction in premium income of more than 2 per cent to £675.5m. But the group says this reflects underlying growth of 7 per cent after allowing for exchange rate movements and the sale of the European subsidiaries.

Much of the improvement continues to come from the United States, where the underwriting deficit has been cut from £25.5m in the first three quarters of last year to £4.8m.

Underwriting results are continuing to improve in all major United States classes, while in the United Kingdom where the deficit has been cut from £2.7m to £800,000 after taking account of £3.3m from unearned premium provisions results are said to be improving, particularly in the motor and fire classes.

Australia has swung from a £4.7m loss to a surplus of £1.4m but market conditions are said to be coming increasingly difficult while western Europe—mainly Holland—has seen a deficit grow from £11.2m to £15.7m, largely as a result of inadequate rates for motor business.

A rise in investment income from £91.1m to £95.8m reflects a growth in the available investment funds and includes earnings of £1.8m from Escote House.

Government will boost BSC borrowing powers to meet crisis

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, indicated, in a House of Commons statement, that the Government would introduce a Bill this parliamentary session to increase the borrowing powers of the British Steel Corporation to enable it to meet the present crisis. Losses this year may exceed £500m.

The Bill will be produced in the new year, but before Parliament adjourns for the Christmas recess Mr Varley hopes to have Cabinet endorsement for a statement which will specify those sections of the industry which have to be closed in the interests of money saving and competitive production.

It is expected that the closure of old plant will mean the reduction of the workforce by about 14,000 workers, and the 20 or so Labour MPs who straggled last night's meeting seemed to concede Mr Varley's argument that, because the world steelmaking capacity so much exceeds demand, there

had to be a cut in the British industry to enable the more efficient sectors to survive.

The main question Mr Varley asked was: "here is the size of the problem. Will the Government make proper preparations for the sudden loss of employment which will have severe effects on the life of steel-making communities?"

Mr Varley was unable to answer the question and the corporation were continuing and no conclusions had yet been reached. He did not expect to be able to announce the decision soon.

Most MPs got the impression that it would come just before the Christmas recess. Generous redundancy terms would be offered.

The minister confirmed that loans made available for capital expenditure were now being used for current spending, including wages. But he emphasized that it was not a financial crisis that now afflicted the industry; it was industrial. The demand was not there. It was a worldwide affliction.

Cost of profitable state steel spelt out to unions

The British Steel Corporation last night signalled the way to a new round of industrial action, but at a cost in lost jobs and plant closures that the unions will almost certainly find unacceptable.

Mr Bob Scholey, chief executive of BSC, said in four hours of talks with the executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation that the industry could not continue on its present downward financial spiral.

Executives told the union's leaders that the industry could move back into profitability if the current depleted order book was lessened, plant closed, modern, low-cost capacity, and if plants providing jobs rather than steel products were shut down.

British Steel is seeking the cooperation of the unions rather than risk another publicly embarrassing confrontation on a scale that characterized this last year.

Voluntary redundancies in some plants on the "generous" terms suggested by BSC, but any accelerated reduction of the Beswick plants at present kept open in development areas by government instructions will be opposed.

The unions are also throwing much of the blame on the financial accountability of British Steel.

More details of BSC's economy proposals came out during last night's talks. A new investment will be severely curtailed. There will be no new plant and the provision of electric arc furnaces at Hunterston and Shotton is also being abandoned.

Financial Editor, page 21

than risk another publicly embarrassing confrontation on a scale that characterized this last year.

Voluntary redundancies in some plants on the "generous" terms suggested by BSC, but any accelerated reduction of the Beswick plants at present kept open in development areas by government instructions will be opposed.

The unions are also throwing much of the blame on the financial accountability of British Steel.

More details of BSC's economy proposals came out during last night's talks. A new investment will be severely curtailed. There will be no new plant and the provision of electric arc furnaces at Hunterston and Shotton is also being abandoned.

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Financial Editor, page 21

Call to CBI for cut to 50pc top tax rate

By Donald Macintyre

A strong call for a cut in income tax to a top level of 50 per cent was put at the Confederation of British Industry's first conference in Brighton by Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman of British Leyland.

The CBI's council is to consider adopting this target as policy at its next meeting later this month.

Mr Edwards said that the present "penal" rates of taxation on earned and investment income should be progressively reduced to 50 per cent by 1979 "at the very latest".

"There is no other single action that a Chancellor could take that would so simply and dramatically unleash the energy of the nation, encourage savings, create jobs, and harness the skill and talent of this great nation from the shop floor to the board room."

The president of "one of our North American competitors" disclosed to him that 100 British immigrant executives were working for his company.

"We must need our heads read to allow the light from Britain to shine on the world," he said. "We have to establish a strong state on public policy matters in future."

He was speaking as a vice-president of the British Institute of Management, but his plea was also a warning that his appointment to Leyland will not deter him from taking a strong stand on public policy matters in future.

A platform resolution, proposed by Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, endorsed the policy in the conference document "Britain Means Business 1977" for a maximum tax rate of 60 per cent by 1979 to 1980.

He told the conference that 44 per cent of the nation's income was spent by the state with the "decisions being taken not by the consuming public, but by politicians and bureaucrats".

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Plan to split Leyland Cars group likely soon

By Clifford Webb

Mr Michael Edwards, British Leyland's new executive chairman, is expected to announce organization and management changes tomorrow which will result among other things in Leyland Cars being split into five profit accountable divisions.

Sources within the company suggested last night that the divisions will be: small cars, medium cars, large cars, specialist and sports cars, parts and servicing.

These classifications were introduced some months ago by the sales and marketing department and their extension to profits has been advocated increasingly within the company.

They also follow the pattern established by the recent changes introduced by Mr Desmond Pitcher, chairman of Leyland Truck and Bus. He has set up four subdivisions: heavy vehicles, medium, light vehicles, passenger vehicles, and parts.

The strongest possible hint about the changes in the pipeline for cars came yesterday from Mr Edwards himself. In an interview prominently displayed on the front page of the company newspaper, *British Leyland Mirror*, he said: "The decentralization technique is already paying dividends in certain areas of British Leyland."

"Trucks and Buses are really quite decentralized now with many profit centres. Special Products is much the same and the same applies to Leyland International. The cars area is less decentralized but that is something to be looked at."

"I believe that people enjoy their jobs more if they have specific authority. I believe in the profit centre concept. I believe in devolving people into the area where profits are made and where goods are produced."

In a comment which will find ready support throughout Leyland Cars, he concluded: "If I preach anything it will be to decentralize authority down to where the knowledge exists for the decisions to be taken. We have to establish far more local say."

Leyland Cars central staff under Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director, are expected to remain in their Coventry headquarters but will assume a coordinating role with largely autonomous subdivisions.

However, their number will be much reduced as senior executives and specialists are moved out to form the management teams for the subdivisions.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Mr Edwards assumed his duties on November 14th, but he has already taken time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to headhunt at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

ST. JAMES'S
ST. JAMES'S
ST. JAMES'S

Europa

Search for settled
parities goes on

Yen holds centre stage in currency manoeuvring

On the currency front the manoeuvring continues, pending the establishment of more settled parities. Shift of position on the present scale do not take place without some groping in the dark—decisions and counter-decisions—nor without some disasters.

The centre of the stage is still being held by the yen, having broken through the threshold of 250 yen to the dollar, has now risen by more than 7 per cent since the relatively stable period in August and by more than 12 per cent since the spring.

After the British Government's hasty abandonment of its very recent decision to hold the pound at \$1.77, sterling also put on a spur to \$1.84, but fell back again to \$1.81.

The other currencies, although cast in minor roles, are also rising against the dollar, but more moderately and really only by way of reaction to events elsewhere; the Deutsche mark by some 3 per cent and the French franc by a little more than 1.5 per cent since August. The lire, on the other hand, has fluctuated little against the dollar.

The problem for each country is to make the choice—of circumstances allow—of the most judicious course in the light of two contradictory objectives: to combat inflation and to sustain exports.

Finding the right solution is made none the easier by the need to take account of the disparate pressures from the unions, the employers and the monetary authorities. This is the debate now taking place in Britain.

Although the recent thrust by the pound should, as the Government thinks, reduce inflation by a further 1 per cent, it will not help matters for such as the motor industry, with imported cars already accounting for more than 50 per cent of new vehicle registrations, whereas it will oblige British industry to improve productivity.

Another rule of the monetary game is that it is essential to avoid uncontrolled lurches in either direction.

This is all the more difficult in that the western world is currently awash with the swelling tide of volatile petrodollars vainly in search of long-term investments. Hence governments' considerable problems in controlling parities and money supply. In some instances the latter can increase sharply, raising fears of inflationary pressures.

It is interesting in this connection to compare the statistics on prices in the economic table with those on the money supply in the financial table. The latter have shown strong growth over the past three months in Britain (21 per cent) and West Germany (15 per cent) although prices are rising more slowly, at 7 per cent in Britain and 5 per cent in West Germany. Much the same is true of the United States, where growth in the money supply is running at more than 10 per cent while inflation is still slowing (currently a little over 4 per cent).

By way of contrast, France has achieved an improbable conjunction of low monetary growth (5 per cent) and an in-

THE ECONOMY					
	Growth (per cent) industrial production (1)	Investment (2)	Wage increases (per cent) (3)	Budget deficit— (4)	Inflation rate per cent (5)
United States	4	7	8	-2.5	4.5
West Germany	4	4	7	-2.9	0
France	-2	1	11	-1	9
Great Britain	0	8	5	-5.5	7
Italy	-3	2	30	-1400	10

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency (000m).

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS					
	Annual growth per cent in money supply (M1)	Day to day (5)	Prime rate (6)	Against the dollar (7)	Against basket of 6 currencies (8)
Dollar	10	8.5	7.75	—	—
Deutsche mark	15	4.0	8.00	2.26	110.0
Franc	8	3.8	9.20	4.85	91.5
Pound	21	4.0	8.00	1.81	82.2
Lira	22	11.7	17.00	879	77.0

(5) Six months moving average expressed as annual rate.
(6) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.
(7) End December 1976=100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Japanese yen.
(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

flation rate stubbornly refusing to fall below 8 per cent, much to the surprise and chagrin of the Government.

All these examples demonstrate the caution and discretion needed in judging a situation in the light of the respective effects of foreign and domestic capital. This is particularly true of the United States where a heated controversy, not to say dispute, is brewing between the Carter Administration and the still independent monetary authority an-

bodied by Dr Arthur Burns. In the eyes of the former, the current policy of monetary restrictions which has pushed interest rates up by more than 30 per cent in a matter of a few months (prime rate is now nearly 8 per cent) is jeopardising United States growth just when it is beginning to gather some impetus.

According to the latter, the prime objective is to defeat inflation by attacking its monetary roots.

This is an important debate.

It shows the extent to which disruption of the international monetary system throws governments into confusion.

The resultant dislocation is undermining the authorities' credibility, especially in the United States, so that it is hardly surprising that Wall Street is at a low ebb with investors more reluctant than ever even though the growth rate is still perfectly respectable.

Maurice Bommensath

A 'catalogue of injustices'

From Mr W. G. Francis
Sir, If Mr Mordley (November 7) is not aware of the injustices of the Employment Protection Act then I can only conclude that his School of Business Studies has not devoted much time to small businesses.

Regrettably the catalogue of injustices, anomalies and plain bureaucratic stupidity is of such size that it would be unreasonable to expect it to be listed within your columns. However, I have but to quote one example in order to illustrate the inhibiting nature of the Employment Protection Act. If an employer is summoned to appear before the tribunal he is required to prove his innocence. This is entirely contrary to the normal concept of British justice. Furthermore, he has no protection against being involved in frivolous or malicious actions.

I would emphasize that we in the independent company sector do not seek to have the Act repealed but to have it amended where the provisions are clearly counter-productive. There are, of course, many other

areas of legislation, especially taxation, which can be held to be partially responsible for the current low level of employment but in my original letter I deliberately confined my observations to the pernicious Employment Protection Act.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. FRANCIS,
Francis & Lewis Ltd,
Fairview Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 2EW,
Gloucestershire,
November 5.

From Mr C. F. C. Simeons
Sir, Mr Mordley claims (November 7) that it is not the Employment Protection Act which is inhibiting independent companies from taking over more people, but it is surely the catalyst which is expected to inspire an anticipated 100,000 people to appeal to tribunals next year against unfair dismissal when statistics clearly show that a very large number of appeals are likely to fail. If the Act isn't a motivating force could Mr Mordley tell us what is?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SIMEONS,
Chairman Central Government Committee,
Independent Companies,
21 Ludlow Avenue,
Luton,
Bedfordshire, LU1 3RW,
November 7.

Siting of Channel Tunnel

From Mr R. Coombs
Sir, May I be permitted to add some relevant facts to the report by Mr Derek Harris (The Times, October 26, 1977) on the prospect of EEC funding for the Channel Tunnel?

"Some environmentalists", he says, "have questioned whether a new high-speed rail link between London and Cheriton, designed to take coastal traffic off the roads, would not be a lesser evil than the unchecked growth of heavy lorry traffic through the south-east."

What he does not say is that this is the view of environmentalists who represent the rail lobby. When British Rail held public meetings to explain their proposals for the rail link, many other environmentalists who had the interests of rural areas at heart voiced their opposition. The road/rail terminal at Cheriton would have the opposite effect and inevitably increase the volume of both lorry and private car traffic on roads that are not designed to cope with it.

Cheriton, for the information of readers who do not know the area, is close to Folkestone in the extreme south-east corner of Kent. To reach the terminal, the motorist would have to cross most of the county, which has no west-east trunk roads other than the proposed M25 in the extreme north.

Those who opposed the concept of the Cheriton terminal, which was an integral and immutable part of the Anglo-French agreement, would, I believe, have not resisted an

alternative scheme for a "rail only" tunnel and this has been put forward. Ironically, such an alternative would have been even more in the interests of the railway protagonists who, however, gave their support to the Government proposal, seeing as it offered at least some prospect of an increase in rail freight traffic.

Mr Harris explains that the concept of EEC funding for the tunnel has arisen because it is now realized that other countries in Europe "could benefit from the tunnel". Just so. When the debate in Britain was at its height proponents argued that the tunnel would help our exports—as though it favoured one-way traffic.

Economically, however, the tunnel is not neutral. Its geographical position would favour the factories and warehouses of north-west France, whether French or multinational, rather than those in our more distant industrial regions. This, indeed, by no coincidence, is the very argument put forward in a whole page advertisement placed by the Region Nord-Pas-de-Calais in the same issue of your newspaper. This advertisement is, in effect, an invitation to industrialists to locate their factories and depots at the gateway to England, but not in England itself. To whose advantage? The region is nearer, via the tunnel, to our richest markets than British factories in our own industrial development areas.

ROGER COOMBS,
Splendide,
Goudhurst,
Kent.

Consumerism in the EEC

From Mr A. Dumont
Sir, As the chairman and then vice chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the EEC for the last four years, I very much welcome Michael Shanks' article of November 1.

Much has been done in the last four years since the United Kingdom joined the European Community to advance the consumer cause, and the present Commission certainly speaks in support of a much greater participation of consumers in decisions affecting their welfare, which in the end means nearly every field of the Community's activities.

But although the words have been fine, deeds have not matched them. Insufficient resources have been made available, insufficient staff are being provided, and owing to the administrative complexities of the Commission's civil service, no one has even been appointed to replace the invaluable Mr John Braun, who left last December, and the

vital Director of Consumer Affairs is not yet appointed. Although consumers are many, their resources are small and some way must be found in the Community, as in each country, of supporting them so that they can effectively voice their needs.

When the Agricultural Commissioner in Brussels and the British Minister of Agriculture and Food in London ask consumers for their support, in forming the common agricultural policy on the lines proposed by consumers themselves, one realizes what can be done to get a fairer system of pricing after the real needs of the citizens of the European Community. But with greater resources and continuing support from all political parties there is very much more that could be done to protect the more civilized community of European peoples.

ANTHONY DUMONT,
c/o Consumer Association,
14 Buckingham Street,
London, WC2N 6DS.

imposed by bodies which are clearly not independent can be forced upon an employer without right of appeal; where trades unions alone have the right to appoint representatives to safety committees (Health and Safety at Work).

True, this is only one of the pieces of legislation deterring those running independent companies from taking on more people, but it is surely the catalyst which is expected to inspire an anticipated 100,000 people to appeal to tribunals next year against unfair dismissal when statistics clearly show that a very large number of appeals are likely to fail. If the Act isn't a motivating force could Mr Mordley tell us what is?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SIMEONS,
Chairman Central Government Committee,
Independent Companies,
21 Ludlow Avenue,
Luton,
Bedfordshire, LU1 3RW,
November 7.

Who pays for the taxman's errors?

From Mr J. M. Leslie
Sir, Recently I received from my tax accountant a bill for nearly £100 for work done on my behalf in appealing against (a) an inaccurate notice of assessment (b) an incorrect capital gains assessment which had attracted an overpayment and (c) no fewer than three errors on the inspector's part in assessment of income, some of which I am disputing (but not the Inland Revenue) will result in repayments.

Since shares were sold at the bottom of the market to satisfy the original inaccurate demand, the distant prospect of refund loses some of its charm. The accountant, replying to a letter in which I acknowledged the reasonableness of his account but asked whether should not be claimed as a reasonable expense on my next return, tells me there are no provisions in the Finance Acts under which accountants' fees can be allowed, which arises through official error.

This sad little tale cannot be unique, and there may be others who will agree with me that the Inland Revenue either improves its efficiency or else allows the fees of the highly necessary "watchdog" over one's affairs to be set against income.

Yours faithfully,
JAN M. LESLIE,
61 Stratford Terrace, NW8,
November 10.

Questioning the Monopolies Commission role

From Mr P. Tarrant-Willis
Sir, How long ago was the Monopolies Commission asked "what do you stand for?" Is it to protect the public against conspiracies to charge high costs, or has it become yet another arm of the government in power, and a sign of that power?

I am not sure that the public are getting better value for money following the Commission's investigation of estate agents' selling fees, solicitors' conveyancing fees, and may well not gain anything overall from the investigation now into surveyors' fees.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TARRANT-WILLIS,
20 St Ann's Villas,
Royal Crescent, London W11,
November 11.

Ford Halewood plant again at a standstill

The £110m Ford car plant at Halewood, Liverpool, was again at a standstill yesterday and will remain so throughout the day and night shifts which have changed over on their fortnightly runs.

The night shift of last week, laid off because of a strike by 21 men in the paint shop over a manning dispute, reported for duty normally yesterday and the management expected full production.

But the 21 men, who are key workers, walked out again and the company had to lay off the 3,500 hourly paid men from the assembly and body stamping plants.

Meanwhile, last week's day shift, laid off because of an unofficial strike by 200 men in the paint shop over a discipline issue, did not operate. A new realism was blowing through the motor factories and recent wage settlement gave cause for great encouragement, said Mr David Plawow, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, speaking at the Scottish Motor Show banquet in Glasgow last night. He said next year's International Motor Show at Birmingham would be the biggest in the 75-year history of the SMMT.

British Shipbuilders pressing Poles for agreement on £115m deal in two weeks

By Edward Townsend
British Shipbuilders is increasing the pressure on the Polish authorities to reach agreement rapidly on the details of Poland's £115m order for 24 ships.

Negotiators from Warsaw are likely to be in London again this week for further talks but although British Shipbuilders has stressed the need for agreement within two weeks it was reluctant yesterday to specify a date for the signing of contracts.

There are no signs that the deal is in jeopardy, but the protracted discussions over the share-out of equipment work

and financing are causing concern. Britain's hard-pressed shipyards are also keen to be making a start on the vessels and the beleaguered British Steel Corporation would welcome an early order for the large amounts of steel that will be needed.

British Shipbuilders has faced a degree of embarrassment since the Prime Minister announced at the Labour Party conference six weeks ago that the deal would be concluded by the end of October. Executives feel that with a contract of this size, delays in agreeing on the small print are not unusual.

One of the main points at issue is the proportion of Polish-made equipment to be installed, particularly engines. It has now been agreed that British Shipbuilders will take a licence from the Swiss engine manufacturer Sulzer and half of the engines for the 15 smaller ships in the deal will be built in Britain.

Final details of the financing of the contracts depend on sorting out the equipment aspects. The British Government has already committed nearly £30m from the Intervention Fund established earlier this year and the Poles have been given 100 per cent credit on the remainder.

Teheran officials cleared of sugar deal charges

Two commerce ministry under-secretaries were acquitted in Teheran yesterday on charges of causing the government a loss of more than \$30m (about £16.5m) in sugar purchases involving the British company Tate & Lyle two years ago.

A three-member tribunal said the defendants Hussein Ali Seyrafi and Muhammad Ali Seyrafi were innocent. The defendants were charged with buying 250,000 tons of sugar from the British firm at prices higher than those prevailing in the market, thereby causing a loss of \$30.4m to the government. Tate & Lyle denied any wrongdoing.

Engineering council changes method of registration

By Derek Harris
The Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), at the centre of the controversy over the organizations of the engineering profession which led to the setting up of the Flinniston Inquiry, is changing its system for the registration of chartered engineers.

Ahead of the Flinniston Inquiry, due to start work before the end of the year, CEI has decided to switch registration

from its own standing committee to a new chartered engineering section of the Engineers Registration Board. It may be that the CEI will argue before the inquiry that the board, with its wider spread compared with the CEI, whose direct membership consists of only 18 largely chartered organizations, could be used as the vehicle for a profession-wide registration system. The other main option on

this likely to be put to the inquiry is for the Government to set up a statutory registration system. The new move would appear to do little in practical terms to make it easier for any professional engineer, whatever his parent organization, to achieve chartered status.

The new chartered engineers section will be open only to those engineers who are members of the 16 organizations

which are full members of the CEI or the two—institutions of nuclear engineers and high-pressure engineers—made affiliate members of the CEI. The Engineers Registration Board was established under powers granted to the CEI with the object of registering the activities of chartered engineers, technicians, dispensing the qualification titles of CEng, TEng (CEI) and Tech (CEI).

UK TRADE

The following are the October trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors:

	Exports Imports	Visible balance
£m	£m	£m
1976	25,416 28,987	-3,571
1977 Q1	7,440 8,402	-962
Q2	8,036 8,798	-762
Q3	8,418 8,447	-29
1976		
Oct	2,308 2,824	-516
Nov	2,320 2,775	-455
Dec	2,448 2,682	-234
1977		
Jan	2,478 3,017	-539
Feb	2,437 2,825	-388
March	2,504 2,747	-243
April	2,649 2,795	-146
May	2,612 2,688	-76
June	2,775 3,085	-310
July	2,735 2,956	-221
Aug	2,767 2,645	+122
Sept	2,916 2,836	+80
Oct	2,768 2,737	+31

r revised
p provisional

TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the unit value index numbers for visible trade and seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

Year/Quarter		1970=100	Terms of Trade
		Exports	Imports
		Trade	
1974		182.7	218.0
1975		246.1	285.1
1976		240.6	300.3
1977	Q1	219.0	269.1
1977	Q2	234.2	292.6
1977	Q3	247.4	308.2
1977	Q4	281.7	331.0
1977	Q1	274.5	341.4
1977	Q2	280.9	350.7
1977	Q3	286.4	351.9
1977	Jan	272.7	336.7
1977	Feb	275.8	340.1
1977	March	275.8	345.8
1977	April	277.4	349.4
1977	May	282.5	350.1
1977	June	282.8	352.7
1977	July	283.2	354.4
1977	Aug	283.4	351.2
1977	Sept	291.8	350.0
1977	Oct	293.1	346.7

r revised
p provisional

12 more alleged price-fixing pacts registered

A further 12 alleged price-fixing agreements in the ready-mixed concrete industry were yesterday placed on the register of restrictive practices by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading. The total registered now stands at 85. More are expected.

Mr Borrie has said that he intends to take all such cases to the Restrictive Practices Court.

Yesterday's additions to the register show that the alleged price-fixing agreements extend to the North-West. The 12 areas affected are: Cheshire, Cheshire and Wirral; Cheshire and Merseyside; Cheshire and Lancashire; Cheshire and Greater Manchester; Cheshire and Yorkshire; Cheshire and East Angles; Cheshire and South East; Cheshire and South West; Cheshire and Wales; Cheshire and Northern Ireland; Cheshire and Overseas; Cheshire and Other.

TUC critical of energy growth estimates

By Our Technology Correspondent
The Trades Union Congress, in a statement to the Government's Energy Commission, says that the growth estimates assumed by the Department of Energy in its future planning are conservative.

If North Sea oil resources are used wisely, the TUC argues, the economy should be able to grow at a faster rate in the next 20 years than in the past 20 years, and it would be wrong to plan on the basis of demand forecasts below the range of 540-560 million tons of coal equivalent.

The problem of closing the energy gap is not just one of boosting energy supplies, the TUC says; it is also one of deriving new technologies so that available primary energy can

be converted into a useful form.

Decisions are needed now on both these problems if supply and demand are to be matched in the 1990s.

Part of the revenue from offshore oil should be used to finance a research and development programme on alternative sources of energy such as wind power and solar power, the TUC says. These revenues should also be used to finance investment in the coal and nuclear industries.

On nuclear power, the TUC says that an early decision on the choice of thermal reactor should be taken to boost confidence in the industry.

Because of a possible shortage of natural uranium, an early decision to construct a commercial-scale fast breeder reactor is called for.

Home-building revival

Further evidence of a gradual recovery in the demand for new private housing is provided in the latest state-of-trade inquiry by the House-Builders' Federation. More than a third of respondents report improving demand, while only 13 per cent say demand is worse. The uncertain economic climate remains the chief factor limiting demand though the inquiry shows signs that the tide may be turning.

Short-time pay rise

A draft Order laid before the Commons yesterday proposes that from February 1, 1978 the limit on the amount of guarantee payment made to workers on short-time or temporary lay-off will be raised from £6 to £6.60 a day. The limit on the weekly amount covered by the insolvency provisions of the Employment Protection Act for such things as arrears of pay or similar payments will also be increased, from £80 to £100.

17 companies have signed BNOC participation pacts

Final participation agreements have now been signed with 17 North Sea Oil companies, giving the British National Oil Corporation the right to purchase 51 per cent of output, it was disclosed in the Commons yesterday.

The latest total, higher than had previously been publicized, was given by Dr Mabon, Minister of State for Energy. This includes Ashland Oil and Deminor, which operate the Thistle field, Occidental (Piper and Claymore) Santa Fe (Thistle) and Union group (Heather).

The BNOC has also signed outline agreements with a further 24 North Sea companies and is now negotiating final participation deals.

It is also believed that the corporation is in the last stages of negotiating final agreements with the Shell/Eso group, once the most vigorous opponents of the Government's policy of state participation.

Shell and Esso, which share Brent, the biggest North Sea oil field, were persuaded finally to sign a participation pact after agreement by the BNOC that it would sell back to the companies, at the price it pays, sufficient North Sea crude to support their United Kingdom refining. This will give the Government rights over almost all the North Sea's oilfields.

Dr Mabon also announced yesterday that exports of North Sea crude in the 12 months ending September 30 were nearly 13 million tons, representing almost 40 per cent of production and valued at £750m. Total oil output in the period was 32 million tonnes, 60 per cent of which went to Western Europe.

Tesco chooses £6m IBM system

A major change from ICL to IBM has been announced by Tesco Stores with the decision to acquire £6m worth of computer equipment.

Model 3032 and 3031 processors, from the latter company. At present Tesco operates some ICL 2903 and three ICL 1904S computers and a Computer Automation Syta mini-computer.

Mr Leslie Porter, Tesco chairman, announced the order yesterday, describing it as the largest single capital investment in the company's history.

"Its magnitude", he said, "reflects the importance which

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

CU asks for more

Commercial Union's £73.8m rights issue will be particularly unsettling for insurance company shareholders because the stock market has only just begun to get over the profound distaste for the sector which had made it one of the worst performers of the preceding 18 months. That distaste stemmed from the difficulties of absorbing a huge volume of insurance company paper, resulting from a variety of rights issues and takeovers, and the feeling that, like the taking of the Forth Bridge, the demands for new capital in the sector would recommence as soon as the previous round was complete.

Latterly CU had itself done much to settle market nerves, its policy of holding back premium income growth, combined with the shedding of the Austrian and German businesses, suggesting that it might not after all have to seek further equity. It was only in March, after all, that it raised £42m by acquiring Estates House Investment Trust, and retained profit has been rising strongly. The sense of disillusionment now will be all the deeper for the misplaced optimism. Next year will see the peaking of the insurance cycle, and the cynics will again be asking whether, since capital is still being raised at this stage, the 1979 downturn will be marked by yet another bout of fund raising.

Unless things go badly wrong, CU itself should be comfortable for four or five years, but its issue has left Royal looking seriously exposed. Previously CU's solvency margin

was 40 per cent and Royal's only slightly higher. The industry average, however, was more like 50 per cent, and with this rights issue under its belt, plus another £70m from a transfer of deferred tax to reserves, CU has now moved up to 52 per cent.

So in the near term the sector is left with no problems. In the first place it will have absorbed CU's issue which could take months. Then it will have to carry the conviction that, sooner or later, Royal will allow with an issue of at least a similar size. Against this kind of background it is hard to see CU's burgeoning profits—£65.7m at the nine month stage against £28m last year, within which underwriting losses are down from £49.8m to £21.6m—having much impact on the shares despite a prospective ex-rights yield of almost 8½ per cent at 140p.

Clearers

A clash with the Bank

That the clearing banks should consider it worth getting on the wrong side of the Bank of England for the seemingly trivial reason of wanting to charge fully if the Bank takes more use of their clearing house facilities is eloquent testament of the fix the clearers are now in on their domestic banking operations.

Admittedly the clearing house is not cheap to run but the actual sum likely to be involved currently will not make the clearers rich. It seems to mean, then, that over a long period when good profitability elsewhere allowed them to ignore the costs involved in providing a plethora of free services clearers are having to look under every one on the principle that every little helps. There have been a growing number of intimations this year, Barclays' admission on Friday that it was looking at the whole structure of its branch network being just the test. The large branch network that grew in good times cannot be justified on economic grounds when interest rates are

so low and competition from alternative financial institutions like the building societies is luring away depositors in droves.

While the other clearers are keeping quiet about their future plans for their branch networks, it is inconceivable that they are not also looking closely at the structure. The stumbling block is, of course, is that the banks are now much more highly unionized groups and it is equally inconceivable that the unions would allow the banks a smooth ride on rationalization of branches.

Also implicit in the clearers' attitude to any attempt by the Bank of England to move into commercial banking is, apart from the philosophical objections, concern that this is yet another sign of mounting competitive pressures in the whole banking arena. Already there is some political suasion for government agencies to use non-commercial financial institutions like Giro while the Labour Party plans for a state bank is another step along this road.

Buying in America

Glaxo's turn

Although much smaller, Glaxo's intended \$15m acquisition of Mayco Laboratories of Florida looks uncannily like a replay of Beecham's £48m purchase of the Calgon consumer products business earlier in the year. As with the Beecham acquisition, the Glaxo deal was not what the market had expected and failed to bring with it the hoped-for increase in dividend.

Beecham later used the Calgon acquisition indirectly to gain Treasury agreement for a 200 per cent dividend increase to assist in the issue of a £17m dollar-convertible bond. Perhaps Glaxo will play the same card. It will not complete until next year by which time it may wish to increase its investment further by building a new plant or sub-license, which would provide a useful excuse for financing on other than the run-of-the-mill overseas borrowings, providing the excuse for a dividend increase.

But it all seems a complicated business to go through if Glaxo really wanted to raise dividends and looks more like a backstop should limitations not be lifted, as everyone expects they will be, in under a year.

Glaxo has achieved the presence in the United States, which it wanted, without picking up any proprietary drugs, which it has stored clear of in the past at 15 times earnings. Its intentions have been known for some time, and it is hardly coincidence that Bayer, Nestlé, Beecham and Boots should all find the United States pharmaceutical market, peculiarly attractive at the same time.

The market's disappointment, however, was shown by a further 8p drop in the shares to 59p, where the yield is still only 2.6 per cent.

BP seems to be paying quite a high price for a 50 per cent stake in the Clarence coal deposit in New South Wales. It is putting up \$435m of the \$435m needed to develop the mine and Oakbridge's subsidiary, Coalco, will get the first \$15m of net revenue for six years from the time the venture first produces \$1m net.

But if BP is in a hurry to reach its target of producing 20 million tonnes of coal a year worldwide (with other developments in Australia, Canada and South Africa under way), Clarence brings it half way to target, and it recognizes the political realities of the present international energy situation.

Multinationals are out of favour in Australia and coal is a touchy subject (the Concise Rictoria of Australia joint bid for Coal and Allied Industries—currently frozen—did not improve the atmosphere) and thus BP has to be seen to be playing fair.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Federal and state governments. New South Wales favours a minimum 50 per cent local ownership of natural resources and is due to produce new guidelines shortly, but Oakbridge and BP hope that the plans will pass muster.

Clarence will bring to £170m the amount BP has invested in coal in three continents over the past few years. Like other oil majors it has been diversifying its base in the post energy crisis era, even if it was initially slower off the mark than most. Last year it set up a minerals department and has joined a deep sea mining consortium.

from CBI delegates for breakfast in their rooms. The president had his an hour and a quarter late.

The mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs Hilary Somerville, in opening the conference said that as a traditionalist she preferred to be addressed as Mr Mayor. This, she explained, was a mystified foreigners that at one overseas reception the Somervilles were introduced as "Mr Mayor and his charming husband".

Anybody at Brighton who may have covered the TUC and political party conferences earlier this year, has been asked: "What do you think of it so far?"

Every senior official from the president and the director general downwards to whom I have spoken has asked the question, and it is clear that it is prompted by anxiety rather than a desire to make small talk.

The leadership desperately wants to achieve two possibly incompatible things with this conference. One is to appear to the public as grave, wise and moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual"). The other is to give the CBI's backwoodsmen, led by Tom Cadbury-Schweppes, a moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual").

Lord Watkinson's tribulations continued yesterday morning at the Metropole Hotel's 2m service began to crumble under the avalanche of calls

The Scotland Bill started its second reading in Parliament yesterday. Bryan Lovell here

examines the nationalists' claim to the country's energy resources

When independence runs out of energy . . .

The Scottish National Party is claiming in its latest literature that Scotland has "enough coal for 1,000 years" and "enough oil to provide £1,800m to a Scottish Treasury for 60 years" so why should we tolerate continuing social deprivation within Scotland?

No one doubts the urgency of the social and industrial problems facing Scotland, but it is unhelpful to link these in the public mind with a selective and distorted view of the natural resources simply because one believes that one's own country has a temporary surplus of a desirable resource such as oil.

This is not only a selfish action in a world where most people are still far worse off than the people of Scotland. It is also a dangerously shortsighted view that prejudices the best hope of long-term prosperity for the people of Scotland itself. In short, the nationalist basic argument is flawed.

Take first the case of coal. Scotland produces about 10 per cent of the United Kingdom annual total production of about 100 million tons, but it is responsible for a disproportionately large part of the National Coal Board's losses and possesses only a few per cent of the NCB's class 1 reserves.

In an independent Scotland many pits could only operate with large subsidies, or import controls, to protect them against cheaper coal from, say, Yorkshire, or possibly later, Belvoir and Oxfordshire.

Writing off reserves by pit

closures could be a dangerous practice in the long-term, when coal is expected to offer to some extent the decline in oil production. So at least part of the oil revenues will have to be set aside with this in mind.

What of the oil revenues? First, to talk of revenue from the North Sea fields over "60 years" is a foolish and misleading political trick. The range of estimates of North Sea reserves of oil and natural gas is wide, and there has been an animated public debate between Professor Peter Odell of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, who is a consultant to the British Department of Energy (higher estimates), and Professor Arthur Whiteman, of Aberdeen University (lower estimates).

Most estimates support Professor Whiteman rather than Professor Odell; it seems likely that there may be between 20,000 million to 30,000 million barrels (roughly 3,000 to 4,000 million tons) of oil that can be extracted economically from the rocks beneath the United Kingdom sector of the northern North Sea.

Note that phrase "United Kingdom sector". There is no agreement in existence or remotely in prospect that says the North Sea could be divided into Scottish and English sectors. The division on an east-west line from Berwick is for three specific matters only: the application of civil and criminal law, of the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act, and of the

1960 Radioactive Substances Act and for nothing else.

So, if Scotland becomes independent, how is the oil and gas in the United Kingdom sector to be divided up?

Oil exploration and production in the United Kingdom sector are the business of international companies and international finance, negotiating with a unified British state. It is this international dimension that is crucial.

In terms of present United Kingdom oil consumption of about 100 million tons a year, 4,000 million tons of North Sea oil looks like a healthy amount; in terms of Scottish consumption it is a very healthy amount. But in terms of the world's annual consumption of about 3,000 million tons it is less impressive.

It is vital to look at North Sea oil in perspective. Here are reserves that look very large in relation to Scotland's own consumption, yet form perhaps only 2 to 3 per cent of world reserves.

The international oil companies take a world view, and their view has to be respected. They are the people who have the expertise and access to capital needed to exploit North Sea oil, and they will arrive to produce oil from the field in a few years and in a fashion that suits them.

Taking a long and ideal view, North Sea oil is something to be jealously conserved as a vital feedstock for the chemical industry, and for essential uses in internal combustion engines;

it is certainly not a resource to be squandered on widespread use of private cars and the generation of electricity. In so far as the nationalists wish to conserve oil with this in mind, the policy is admirable.

But surely it is unrealistic to pretend that the present trend towards the rapid build-up in production for international markets from the North Sea fields could be reversed to such an extent that an independent Scotland would have vast oil revenues well into the middle of next century.

There may of course, be discoveries of major new fields on the continental shelf to the north and west of Scotland, or in deeper water in the Rockall area, but one cannot plan for independence on the strength of such a host of geological, political, legal and financial uncertainties.

What then should be the policy? It must first of all recognize the short of important new discoveries, a replacement for oil both as a source of revenue and as a source of energy will have to be found before the end of the century. To a large extent "energy" and "revenue" are synonymous; it is after all energy that underpins virtually all of man's activities including the most fundamental such as modern agriculture.

So the first call on the oil revenues, as was repeatedly stressed in the recent series of articles in *The Scotsman* ("The oil option"), is to find and

develop substitutes for oil as a source of energy.

Coal is just one possibility. Others include nuclear power, solar power, wind power, wave power and tidal power. Allied with all of those are schemes for conserving energy in home and industry alike, and for introducing alternative technologies that are less greedy in their demands for energy.

Debate, research and development in those fields is international in scope. Many of the alternatives are capital-intensive; nearly all require a high level of technical expertise at least at the stage of planning and development.

All the trends are towards a breakdown of national barriers in the search for answers to these vital problems, rather than a retreat into nationalism. For nationalism in this increasingly energy-hungry part of the twentieth century does not mean freedom, but the opposite. For Scotland to choose "independence" on the strength of a present surplus of oil with no preparation for the future would be folly.

The author is lecturer in geology at the University of Edinburgh.

Caroline Atkinson

Rising yen still leaves Japan unbalanced

By any standard, the Japanese now have a "fundamental disequilibrium" in their balance of payments.

The current account, first forecast by the government to be in deficit of \$700m (£385m) this financial year, recently revised to a surplus of \$6,500m, is now commonly expected by outsiders (who have been extremely sceptical of the official forecasts throughout) to reach \$14,000m. In the first six months of the year alone it totalled \$5,585m.

Although capital movements have been liberalized, and interest rates cut, with a consequent step up in both long and short-term yen outflows, this has not been enough to counteract the current surplus.

The present unwillingness or inability to import foreign manufactured goods—on a lesser extent—foodstuffs, springs from two essentials of Japan's economic structure.

There is a gulf between the least efficient and slowest growing domestic sector of the economy, which is virtually closed to foreign competition, and the dynamic export sector.

It is preserved through the dominance and power of the big industrial and agricultural interests, which enjoy captive home markets and are extremely good at penetrating the more open market of the rest of the world. Added to this is the tight control exerted on the value of the yen, until this year, has kept it typically undervalued.

However, while Japanese businessmen are already beginning to worry seriously about the effect of this appreciation on their exports, Japan's western trading partners are calling for still more action to cut the surplus.

Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, is now weighing considering measures to boost imports directly. Those which have been announced so far have done little to placate the manufacturers in America and Europe who are most angry about the Japanese surplus (they are in the direct line of Japan's export drive).

However, at an emergency

Cabinet meeting over last weekend the Government is thought to have agreed to tariff cuts and increases in import quotas on a wide range of goods.

There are already many direct restrictions on exports under the proliferating "orderly market arrangements" which Japanese exporters often prefer to a dearer yen or open, unilaterally imposed, protection.

The success of this mixture of traditional economic and of less measures to balance the balance of payments depends crucially on the adaptability of the Japanese economy.

The pattern of exports is in sharp contrast. Over half of Japan's overseas sales were finished manufactures of machinery and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

ing Japanese export competitiveness. Thus foreign goods are rare luxuries for the Japanese consumer while Japanese expertise and efficient production is quickly available abroad.

Secondly, Japan's economy has developed through the manufacture and export of previously imported raw materials.

Last year oil and other mineral fuel imports accounted for 43 per cent of the total import bill. Other raw materials took a further 20 per cent, and food, drink and tobacco nearly 15 per cent.

Chemicals (which are usually imported semi-finished for industrial use) and other manufactures accounted for 15 per cent of the total. Of the \$65,000m total was spent on machinery and transport equipment.

The pattern of exports is in sharp contrast. Over half of Japan's overseas sales were finished manufactures of machinery and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

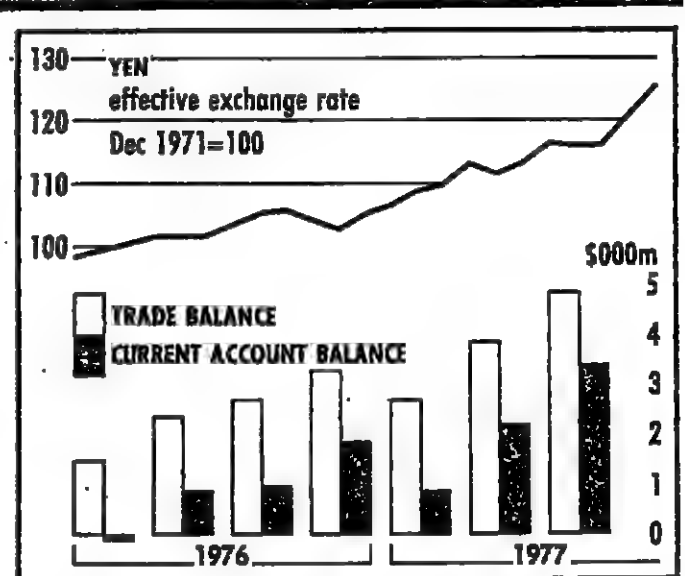
Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.

Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment.



tries in deficit with Japan to insist on reaching balance, given Japan's need to buy raw materials from other countries.

However, the Japanese can now afford to buy more from everybody, and it is foolish for them to insist on selling away the earnings rather than using them to achieve a better standard of living.

It is unfortunately conceivable that the main effect of a dearer yen will be to slow down growth and increase unemployment as first profits and then sales of exporting industries are squeezed.

The struggle of Japanese big business on the home market and the virtual impossibility for foreign manufacturers of getting through the inefficient distribution sector to the Japanese consumer market is extremely doubtful that Japan will significantly increase imports from the industrialized West.

Balanced payments at a lower level of activity will help international financial stability but will not provide more jobs or faster growth in the world.

The Government is additionally hamstrung in its attempts to boost domestic demand by the strict limits on its fiscal deficit—so that extra spending has to be financed by "deficit" bonds which must be approved in Parliament—and by the caution of Japanese consumers.

The savings ratio (the proportion of take home pay which is saved rather than spent) has risen from an already high 19 per cent average in the 1960s and early 1970s to around 25 per cent now. This limits the effect of any increases in income on spending and output.

One way to cut the balance of payments surplus and relieve further pressure on the yen, while not liberalizing the domestic market, is to encourage capital outflows. The sharp cut in discount rate this year, and a growing move to internationalize the yen, with yen-dominated bond issues, go some way in this direction.

Long-term capital outflows in August and September totalled nearly \$1,000m. Spending abroad in direct investment by Japanese companies is also an alternative way of using the foreign exchange earned through exports.

These measures are unlikely to be enough to close the payments gap. Japan is already looking over its shoulder at the fast growing manufacturing capacity of the South Koreans, and other less developed economies.

This year's rapid rise in the yen has brought much nearer the need for Japan to adjust from a low-wage, labour-intensive economy to a high-wage consumer society. It is to be hoped that this will eventually include greater freedom for consumers to buy foreign goods.

Business Diary: The CBI goes 'Consensual'

Mr Davies, Business Diary's first in Brighton for the 11. Annual conference of the CBI.

The conference got off to a sky start on Sunday afternoon—the day before business began—when the president, Lord Watkinson, turned up here to find that he could not get into his suite at the Metropole Hotel.

In theory, he and other CBI brass were supposed to arrive at the hotel just as other big party, exhibitors and buyers attending an antique fair, were about to leave.

In practice, however, the dollers, some of them extremely convivial souls, were sleeping off a Saturday night's party and in a some were still holding a by lunchtime on Sunday.

Lord Watkinson, former binner minister and chairman of Cadbury-Schweppes, was understandably not amused. A afternoon's pre-conference getting was already looking a little dicey as delegates began agglutinating with British Rail error stories of two and three or crawls from Victoria to Brighton stations.

The travel in the morning was the BR brochure exhibited in the conference centre here.

In the event, however, all was well and by the time Lord Watkinson appeared in public on Monday afternoon he was even talking about the conference's "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual".

The other is to give the CBI's backwoodsmen, led by Tom Cadbury-Schweppes, a moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual").

from CBI delegates for breakfast in their rooms. The president had his an hour and a quarter late.

The mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs Hilary Somerville, in opening the conference said that as a traditionalist she preferred to be addressed as Mr Mayor. This, she explained, was a mystified foreigners that at one overseas reception the Somervilles were introduced as "Mr Mayor and his charming husband".

Anybody at Brighton who may have covered the TUC and political party conferences earlier this year, has been asked: "What do you think of it so far?"

Every senior official from the president and the director general downwards to whom I have spoken has asked the question, and it is clear that it is prompted by anxiety rather than a desire to make small talk.

The leadership desperately wants to achieve two possibly incompatible things with this conference. One is to appear to the public as grave, wise and moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual").

The other is to give the CBI's backwoodsmen, led by Tom Cadbury-Schweppes, a moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensual").

Lord Watkinson's tribulations continued yesterday morning at the Metropole Hotel's 2m service began to crumble under the avalanche of calls

ence so far, I said it all depended whether a delegate took on his feet and demanded that the CBI press for the death penalty for strikers. He looked thoughtful and replied: "Mum, well we have got some like that."

Lyon and his supporters have been effectively outmanoeuvred by the decision not to call for a debate on any of the 80 or so individual motions.

One of these from the smaller firms' council, calls on the CBI to pull out of the "numerous official organizations to which industry and commerce are asked to be a party."

But enlarging the CBI's right to have its say in the big bad world is what, so far as Lord Watkinson and the director-general John Methven, are concerned the conference is all about.

Every conference has to have its star these days, it seems, and there can be little doubt that yesterday's was Alf Gooding.

Whether he is exactly the sort of star the platform would have chosen is another matter. Gooding, a Caerphilly builder, and maker of building products, described with more heat than light how he couldn't make ends meet on an annual salary of £30,000—a declaration that provoked a few heated cheers outside the conference centre.

Gooding, who is 45, said that at the rate he was paid (83 per cent maximum on his salary, 98 per cent on dividends) he had to make £15 to be able to buy a pint and £250 for a hairdo for Mrs Gooding.

Lastly, stepping back from the lectern in a classic piece of Welsh pulp-craft, he pointed



Photograph by John Manning

Alf Gooding and the £10,000 suit in Brighton yesterday.

to the clothes he was wearing and said that they had cost him "ten thousand pounds".

One thing that is not likely to happen here is the long rumoured change of name from the Confederation of British Industry to that of the Confederation of British Business.

There are, it is true, enough non-industrial members from the chain store and insurance businesses to warrant such a move. Lord Watkinson told me, however, that although such a change was on the cards, it would not be made this week, and probably not for some time after that.

The main stumbling block seems to be relations with Tom Boardman's Association of

British Chambers of Commerce. Many ABCC member chambers are affiliated to the CBI—the Westminster Chamber of Commerce, for example, has a number of members down this week—but the association itself remains outside, and frowns upon any remaining of the CBI which might be seen as stealing the association's clothes.

Lord Watkinson told me that "deontology" talks had been going on between the two organizations for some time, but added that he didn't see any quick results.

One unexpected face in Brighton this week is that of Reg Prentice, sometime Labour—and for the present at least—Conservative MP for Newham NE.

Prentice showed up at neither the Labour nor the Tory Party conferences this year, and is in Brighton not as a member of the Tory whip's contingent, but as a delegate from a corporate member.

This is STC, Standard Telephone and Cables as was, for whom Prentice has been working as a consultant on "social policy" since last June. STC, part of the British Telecom conglomerate ITT, has been shedding workers in this country partly as a response to the world depression and partly because of cutbacks in Post Office contracts.

Prentice has blossomed out as a political commentator on the right-wing *Evening News* and *Tide*, having written in the present issue about the plight of the small firm, he will be assessing the CBI conference in the next edition.

The main stumbling block seems to be relations with Tom Boardman's Association of

More from Brighton tomorrow.

Arbuthnot Latham

INTERIM REPORT

The unaudited profits for the Group for the half year ended 30th September 1977 show an increase, and an interim dividend of 3.85p per ordinary share (1976 3.5p) has been declared and will be paid on 30th December 1977 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 5th December 1977.

A. R. C. Arbuthnot

Chairman

Arbuthnot Latham Holdings Limited

37 Queen Street London EC4R 1BY

14th November 1977

The Board of Management of Akzo N.V. announces that on 15th November 1977 the results for the third quarter of 1977 were published.

Copies of this quarterly report may be obtained from the London Paying Agent:

Barclays Bank Limited
Securities Services Department
54 Lombard Street
LONDON EC3P 3AH



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Concentric's growth plan spoiled by motor industry strife: trading this year good but rough

By Alison Mitchell

The industrial troubles of the motor industry worry engineering group and components manufacturer Concentric.

Disputes at British Leyland, Massey Ferguson, Ford and Lucas all took their toll and left the group short of the forecast £2.5m for the year to October 1.

However, on turnover up almost 33 per cent from £24.3m to £31.5m the group managed an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.45m. So pre-tax margins tightened to less than 8 per cent from an artificially-high 9 per cent.

Despite the flatness of the British economy all subsidiaries managed to increase their contribution, according to managing director Mr John Perks.

Recently acquired Evered Controls, which broke even in the first half year, made a profit of £75,000 for the year as a whole, in line with board expectations, and this company should assist growth over the next few years.

Direct exports rose by around



Mr. Denis Dodd, chairman.

£1m to £3.5m but taking in products sent overseas through export houses and agents they were more than £4m.

The bulk of Concentric's overseas sales are in EEC and European markets but the Midlands conglomerate is now concentrating on expanding its foot-

hold in South America. The ratio of exports to United Kingdom sales is unlikely to change much in the future although the group will continue to develop overseas markets.

Capital spending last year amounted to just under £1m. A similar amount is to be set aside this year to replace and extend plant. Mr Perks says that the group is to review its existing assets with a view to spending around £2m and bring the factories up to the level of technology needed for the 1980s.

The going since October 1 has been "good but rough" and Mr Perks warns shareholders that Concentric is going to have to run hard to stand still. Though making no specific forecast he predicts that the group should finish the year with profits at least as good as those of the past 12 months.

But strikes and industrial stoppages are again likely to influence the outcome. The disputes at BOC and in the electricity industry have had some effect while the threat of a miners' strike puts a cloud on the horizon.

Stock markets

Engineers join firemen in dousing shares

There was no repeat of last week's performance at the start of the new account as equities fell back on industrial worries and trade figures which were rather below best hopes.

Initially weak on the implications of the firemen's strike, prices made a partial recovery in mid-session in front of the trade news. But when this failed to please drifted off again and the FT Index, 4.2 lower at 3 pm, closed a further half a point lower at 496.7, a net loss of 4.7.

Dealers said the prospect of a guideline breaking pay claim from the engineers and further evidence of stagnant industrial production did nothing to lift the general sentiment though

Rumours of a bid for Eves Industries are growing. The group recently took over Robert Stockfish, part of the Central and Sherwood steel, but Eves 29 per cent stakeholder, Anglo Indonesian Plantations, were not in favour of the bid. Could Anglo be wishing to take full control of the Government-owned steel?

Eves's shares are near the high for the year.

they emphasized that there was little real selling pressure. There was also some disappointment at the trade figures for the Government, where short dated ended about one eighth off and longer maturities shed up to one quarter.

The massive £75m rights issue from Commercial Union took

the insurance sector by surprise and cast a shadow over the sector. The shares themselves closed 14p lower at 140p with Royal, due to report today, 30p off at 395p. Others to come under pressure were Sun Alliance, down 33p to 575p, and Royal Exchange 12p to 240p.

In electricals comment on figures due soon clipped 7p to 235p from GEC. But news of an approach lifted Cohen Brothers 7p to 45p while comment lifted Electromechanics, another speculative counter, 25p to 340p. Elsewhere in the sector consumer considerations were good for rises of 4p to 142p for Henry Wigfall and of

2p to 154p for Comet Radio. In oils BP reacted from its recent gains which have stemmed from a strong United States demand. The shares dropped 4p to 510p, but Shell managed a rise of 3p to 576p and Berry Wiggins still drew strength from its rig deal firming another 4p to 43p in spite of a two-way trade.

News of cider price rises lifted H. P. Bulmer 2p to 137p but the sale of certain interests to the Imperial Group lowered Associated Fisheries a penny to 57p. Mowlem gave up some of its recent gains, losing 6p to 130p, while Trafalgar Carpets slumped 10p to 35p waiting for further takeover news.

Still reflecting last week's

lower profits slump and dividend setback Staffex was the most active counter of the session losing no less than 7p for a close of 12p.

But the speculative Flight Refuelling sprang to life again closing at 115p while favourable comment was good for gains in Thos Jourdan 6p to 40p, Intersek 5p to 82p and York Trailer 2p to 71p. For the reverse reason English China Clays slipped 3p to 88p.

News of a 10p cutback clipped 3p to 11p from Babcock & Wilcox while GKN also came under pressure closing 12p down to 276p. In front of figures George Bassett rose 6p to 147p but elsewhere in food Wheatstaple dipped 2p to 219p,

also ahead of a statement. The clearing banks spent the day in retreat with losses of 5p from Barclays at 340p and Lloyds and National Westminster both at 280p. In properties recovery hopes and asset values continued to spark life into Imry which featured in an otherwise dull sector with a gain which stretched to 2p to 307p at one stage.

In spite of a bullish broker's comment it was reported that 400,000 British Home Stores shares went through the market at 215.25p. The seller was said to be an institution lightening its portfolio and the shares closed 3p lower at 222p.

Doubled profits lifted David Dixon 4p to 60p while another to benefit from a statement was Yarrow which ended 5p to the good at 246p. Concentric friend a penny to 42p, but Woolworth held steady at 62p in front of figures due later this week.

Lethargic conditions persisted after hours with leading equities and gilts continuing to show little response. Equity turnover on November 11 was £112.3m (19,567 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were: Smeeth, ICI, BAT, DfD, Commercial Union, Shell, Reed International, Intersek, GKN, De La Rue, Berry Wiggins, Midland, Lloyds, Electrocomponents, and Royal Insurance.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int. & Fin.	—	—	—	2b(2b)	—	—
Rhinocycle Plt (I)	—	—	—	2(11.5)	16.12	2.1(1.5)
Beyco Plt (I)	44.2(35.2)	4.4(2.2)	11.2(8.1)	2(1.3)	9/1	—
Carlton Inds (I)	—	—	—	1.17(0.95)	9/1	1.67(1.45)
Clydesdale Inds (I)	—	—	—	0.5(0.43)	9/1	—
Comben Cp (I)	10.7(8.2)	6.7(25.0)	12.47(5.33)	2.56(2.52)	17/11	7.62(6.8)
Concentric (I)	31.5(21.2)	2.4(2.2)	1.17(0.81)	1.5(0.81)	17/11	2.3(2.1)
J Dawson (I)	1.9(1.4)	0.2(0.2)	—	1.0(0.97)	3/2	—
D Dine (I)	2.3(1.7)	0.1(0.2)	—	0.35(NH)	—	—
Eng & O'Leary (I)	—	—	—	25(20)	9/1	—
Imp Platinum (I)	—	—	—	0.67(0.6)	13/1	—
Invergardon (I)	6.9(4.5)	1.2(0.7)	—	0.80(0.73)	9/1	—
Propt Plt (I)	—	—	—	1.5(2.7)	27/12	—
Rothschild Inds (I)	—	—	—	1.25(1.0)	12/12	4.0(3.0)
Scott Ontario (I)	—	—	—	5.0(4.7)	—	—
Secomb Metall (I)	—	—	—	3.1(2.7)	—	—
Terraco (I)	6.8(5.1)	1.8(1.3)	37.5(43.4)	—	—	4.6(4.1)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Forecast. 6 Cents.

Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited

The Board announces estimated and unaudited profits for the 9 months to 30th September 1977 of £24.3m (1976 £16.7m) after providing for taxation.

	9 months to 30.9.77 (£m)	9 months to 30.9.76 (£m)	Year ended 30.9.76 (£m)
PREMIUM INCOME	875.5	894.9	1,148.9
Investment income	95.8	91.1	123.9
Life profits	9.8	5.5	7.9
Underwriting result (table below)	(21.6)	(49.8)	(59.8)
Loan interest	(17.3)	(18.8)	(24.7)
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	66.7	38.0	47.3
Taxation and minorities	(24.4)	(11.3)	(17.2)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	42.3	26.7	30.1
EARNINGS PER SHARE	12.47p	5.33p	9.64p
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	£444m	£317m	£358m
UNDERWRITING RESULT			
United Kingdom	(.8)	(2.7)	(6.8)
United States	(4.8)	(23.5)	(26.4)
Australia	1.4	(4.7)	(4.7)
Canada	1.3	—	—
Western Europe	(15.7)	(11.2)	(17.4)
Remainder	(1.9)	(6.6)	(4.4)
	(21.6)	(49.8)	(59.8)

The results of the Company's overseas operations have, as usual, been converted at rates of exchange at the close of the periods reported above. The effect of the rise in the value of sterling between 30th September 1977 and 30th November 1977 is estimated to be a profit attributable to shareholders of £25.3m for the 9 months, by approximately £0.8m.

World-wide premium income shows a reduction of 2%. However, after allowing for changes in rates of exchange and the effect of the sale of the Australian and German companies during 1977, the growth in our premium income was approximately 7%.

In the United Kingdom the underwriting result is after taking credit for a further £1.1m, making £3.3m for the year to date, arising from the change made this year in the method of calculating unearned premium provision. There has been some improvement in underwriting results during the 3rd Quarter, particularly in the Motor and Fire classes.

In the United States the underwriting experience continues to improve in all major classes and an underwriting profit was made in the 3rd Quarter. The statutory operating ratio for the 9 months to 30th September 1977 was 101.2%, compared with 106.9% for the same period last year and 104.3% for the 6 months to 30 June 1977. Underwriting results in Australia continue to be profitable, but the market conditions are becoming increasingly difficult. The Canadian underwriting results are largely due to the estimated effect of current regulations of the Anti-Inflation Board, are profitable, due mainly to improve experience in the Motor and Fire classes. In Western Europe the poor results are largely due to the estimated losses in the Netherlands arising from inadequate rates for Motor business and this unsatisfactory position, which is common to insurers in that country, is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

The increase in investment income reflects a growth in funds available for investment and from 1st April includes earnings of approximately £1.8m before tax in respect of Estates House Investment Trust Limited. Income from the Australian and German companies sold earlier this year has been excluded. For the same period of 1976 this amounted to £2.3m.

The Company has reviewed its deferred taxation accounting policies in the light of the proposed statement of standard accounting practice (ED19) issued by the Accounting Standards Committee. In concurrence with the Company's auditors, it has been decided that the adoption of the principles contained in ED19 gives a more realistic view of the Company's financial position, and it also brings our practice more into line with the insurance industry. This accounts for the year 1977 will therefore be prepared on this basis. The approximate effects of this change on the 9 months figures shown above would be to increase the Profit Attributable to Shareholders from £42.3m to approximately £47m and the Shareholders' Funds from £444m to approximately £474m. It is emphasized that the tax charge for the 9 months to 30th September 1977 on the new basis cannot necessarily be taken as a reliable guide for the year as a whole, or for subsequent accounting periods. Similarly, the addition to Shareholders' Funds shown above as at 30th September 1977, attributable to the change in the basis of deferred taxation will differ at the year end depending upon movements in the value of investments and other circumstances prevailing at that time.

As announced on 14th November 1977, the Company proposes to raise approximately £23.5m, after expenses, by the issue of 58,719,834 new Ordinary Shares of 25p each by way of rights. The new Shares are being offered to Ordinary Shareholders at a price of 130p per share on the basis of one new Ordinary Share for every six Ordinary Shares of 25p each held on the register at the close of business on 8th November 1977.

On the assumption that there are no changes in the relevant rates of taxation or in government restrictions on dividends, the Board intends, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to recommend, in respect of the year ending 31st December 1977, a final dividend of 5.81p per Ordinary Share, to be paid on the Ordinary Share capital as increased by the rights issue. The effect of this is set out below:

	Net dividend payable per Share	Approximate dividend including imputed credit price per Share
1976		
Total rate of dividend (including additional amount following change in basic rate of income tax)	6.912	10.531
1977		
Interim	2.564	3.885
Proposed final	5.081	7.698
Proposed total rate of dividend	7.645	11.583

The proposed total rate of dividend provides a gross yield of 8.91 per cent at the issue price of the new Ordinary Shares and represents an increase of 10 per cent on the total rate of dividend (including the imputed tax credit) payable in respect of the year ended 31st December 1976.

14th November 1977

Insure with
Commercial Union
Assurance



Recovery at Yarrow and dividend up

By Victor Felstead

Now short of its shipbuilding side, nationalized on July 1, Glasgow-based Yarrow reports a turnaround to profits and a trading level and a bigger dividend.

The market was pleased with the results and the shares finished 6p up at 246p. On a turnover of 31.5 per cent ahead at £6.81m, Yarrow made trading profits of £369,000, against losses of £547,000 last time, in the year to June 30.

Both investment income and the profit on sales of investments were higher and the group took a dividend from Yarrow (Shipbuilders) of £750,000, compared with £1.35m. This makes a pre-tax profit of £1.81m against £1.35m last year. The tax charge was £310,000, against a credit of £385,000 for the previous year.

Earnings per share dipped slightly from 43.4p to 37.5p but the total gross dividend still rises from 6.35p to 6.98p, the maximum.

Yarrow (Shipbuilders) and Yarrow (Training) were nationalized on July 1. Both were fully owned, which is not the compensation basis provided in the nationalization Act, more than £20m would be a reasonable price to expect for a company with outstanding results, a full order book, worth over £200m, an impressive future cash flow and favourable prospects.

He tells shareholders that he does not think he is overstating the case by saying that in a normal "willing buyer, willing seller" transaction, which is not the compensation basis provided in the nationalization Act, more than £20m would be a reasonable price to expect for a company with outstanding results, a full order book, worth over £200m, an impressive future cash flow and favourable prospects.

Preparation of the group's valuation and claim for compensation is well advanced, reports Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman.

He tells shareholders that he does not think he is overstating the case by saying that in a normal "willing buyer, willing seller" transaction, which is not the compensation basis provided in the nationalization Act, more than £20m would be a reasonable price to expect for a company with outstanding results, a full order book, worth over £200m, an impressive future cash flow and favourable prospects.

Japanese securities set record

Three major securities companies in Japan have announced record net profits for the year ended September 30 boosted by strong increases in commissions from securities sales as stock market activity was high.

Nomura Securities Company, the largest in Japan, said that net profit rose by 43.1 per cent to a record 35,100 yen (about £78m) from 24,500 yen a year earlier. Turnover was up 16.3 per cent to a record 185,600m.

Nikko Securities Company said that its net profit for the same period rose 41 per cent to a record 24,200 yen. Sales totalled a record 125,500m yen, up 18 per cent.

Yamaichi Securities Company said its net profit in the year jumped by 110.6 per cent to a record 12,400 yen from 5,900 yen. Revenues rose by 29.6 per cent to record 95,000m yen from 73,300m yen.

Générale Occidentale, the French master company of Sir James Goldsmith has shown portfolio revenues and other income of 20.5m francs (about £2.36m) in first quarter of the year ending June 30.

Deutsche Shell drop Third quarter earnings of Deutsche Shell averaged DM20.35 per ton of oil below those of the similar period last year, indicating a probable overall loss for 1977, the group says. No total figures for third quarter earnings were given.

Losses in the third quarter were DM18.63 per ton of oil. In the first three quarters, losses amounted to DM18.23 per ton.

First payment in years from Eng & Overseas

By Michael Clark

English & Overseas Investments, in publishing, fine art and real estate, has carried out its first dividend in four years.

In the six months to September 30, English & Overseas, the former John Bloom company, has reported pre-tax profits of £147,000 compared with £25,000. Turnover rose from £1.7m to £2.3m and earnings a share were 1.36p against 0.25p. The directors have therefore recommended an interim dividend of 0.53p gross.

The group now seems poised for strong organic growth. Both the publishing and dry bulking interests are in the midst of expansion programmes at home and abroad, and the forecasts made by Mr Colin Jeffries, chairman, are increasingly being realized. There is every indication that the recovery in profitability will be maintained.

Last year E & O returned to

the black with pre-tax profits of £184,000 against a loss of £155,000.

In spite of tough trading conditions the business of the group has continued to expand during the first six months.

The two main trading companies, Athena International and Metalair, have continued to prosper and show every indication of maintaining their upward trend.

Athena International, Britain's largest fine art publisher, has increased its turnover by 35 per cent on the same period last year, recording total sales of £1.3m including its European subsidiaries. The seasonal aspect of the publishing industry is now showing strongly and the second half figures should show a significant improvement.

The group's other trading subsidiary Metalair is the largest maker of dry bulking equipment in the country and has consolidated the dramatic improvement shown last year.

Scottish & Continental

The Murray Johnstone managed Scottish and Continental Investment Company had a mixed year to August 31. On the one hand it doubled the dividend; on the other it saw a sharp drop from 69.3p to 67.5p.

The share invests largely in Europe and North America and during the year under review the best plan was to have had a sharp drop from 69.3p to 67.5p.

Germany managed a 4.2 per cent gain but down went Holland by nearly 6 per cent, the United States, by 6 per cent, and France by as much as 15 per cent. The fall in the investment currency premium of

12 per cent was no help either. During the year the group whitened down the number of companies wherein it invests from 77 to 61, disposed of small stakes in Switzerland, Denmark and Spain and hoisted the percentage holding in the United States, from 13.42 per cent to 21.9 per cent.

Mr J. A. Lumsden, chairman, and his colleagues expect inflation to slow down more, and the world economy to escape recession. They plan to raise the stake in the United States, deemed to be "particularly attractive" to reduce the portfolio in Europe, and quite possibly take a stake (modest) in the United Kingdom and in the trust does not now have.

Invergordon Dist tops up results at Carlton Ind and more to come

By Our Financial Staff

Carlton Industries, an offshoot of London Merchant Securities, has turned in pre-tax profits of £6m for the six months to September 30 last against £3.2m. Turnover rose by just over a fifth from £36.2m to £44.2m.

Carlton has three major divisions. The largest is the production of the largest distillery, Invergordon, is sold for blending purposes and the increase in stocks being laid down has produced a volume of around 20 per cent at the Carlton subsidiary.

Bottled whisky sales in the United Kingdom have not been too buoyant, but export sales are increasing by around 10 per cent a year.

However, Invergordon's company secretary Mr K. Findell fears that there may be a hiccup

in supply in the next year to 18 months. Cash flow problems among the blenders, resulting in a past decrease in stocks being laid down, could mean a temporary shortage.

Carlton's other two main divisions, housebuilding and lead acid batteries, also raised their profits.

The developer and house builder Comben Group showed a slight rise from £600,000 to £641,000. But signs of an upturn in the market should see the company finishing the year ahead of last time's £1.26m.

The redemption of some of the company's loan stock will reduce borrowings by £1.8m.

The lead acid batteries side, which includes Oldham & Son and Tungsten Batteries, hoisted pre-tax profits from £2.25 to £3.15m.

Mr Jessel's failure at M James

Coventry-based Maurice James Industries, now making a 25p-a-share cash offer for the Poland-based company, has completed the takeover of Caspar Jack. This is a clothing import business privately owned by Mr Ian Gravenor, a joint managing director of Doland.

The price was £100,000, with a further £100,000 based on profit performance. Caspar is expected to contribute "substantially" to James's profits. Mr Gravenor has supported the James' bid for Doland, together with all the Doland directors, except for Mr Oliver Jessel—who yesterday failed in his attempt to obtain a High Court injunction to halt the sale of Caspar to James.

James' offer for Doland is open until November 25. To date, it has attracted the support of 44.5 per cent of the Doland shareholders.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson said he would have granted a temporary injunction to stop the takeover, but for Mr Jessel's unwillingness to give a cross-undertaking in damages.

The undertaking sought would have covered not only Maurice James, but also Caspar Jack and its controlling shareholder, Mr Gravenor.

Yesterday's application arose out of the boardroom disagreement at Doland, which is a Coventry-based clothing business. Since early August, said Mr Jessel, Doland had been trying to acquire Caspar, which imports men's suits from Poland. Doland's directors include Mr Jessel, Mr Leonard Maurice James and Mr Gravenor.

Mr Jessel alleged that Mr James was in breach of his fiduciary duty as a Doland director in going behind the board's back to arrange a deal between his own company and Caspar.

May we quote you?

I very much like being quoted in The Times, particularly public companies. If you are not quoted, telephone Patricia Hilday on 01-487 1244 extension 7506, or write to her at Times News Service, Limited, New Printing House Square, City of London, London EC4A 3DF.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

THE LIST OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPENED AT 10 a.m. ON THURSDAY, 17th NOVEMBER 1977 AND WILL BE CLOSED AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER ON THAT DAY.

10 per cent. TREASURY STOCK, 1992

ISSUE OF £600,000,000 AT £95.50 PER CENT.

PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION

(NAMES OF APPLICANTS FOR £100 OF THE STOCK APPLIED FOR)

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 21st FEBRUARY AND 21st AUGUST.

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Applications have been made to the Council of the Bank of England for the Stock to be admitted to listing on the London Stock Exchange.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorized to receive applications for the above Stock. The principal and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund. The Stock will be repaid at par on 21st February 1992.

Applications for the Stock should be made to the Bank or to any of the following: Messrs. J. & W. Morgan & Co. Ltd., 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF; Messrs. J. & W. Morgan & Co. Ltd., 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF; Messrs. J. & W. Morgan & Co. Ltd., 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Appointment of Receiver to Royco subsidiary

Queen Street Trust, the banking offshoot of Royco Group, has appointed Mr. Martin Spencer of Stoy Hayward and Co. as receiver and manager of Marlehead Plastics, another Royco subsidiary.

This follows a request from Marlehead's board. The company has been losing money and meeting financial difficulties. Marlehead makes plastic sheet and profile products. Its share capital of 20,000 ordinary shares is owned by a Royco subsidiary.

At October 31, Marlehead's gross assets were about £12.5m. Sums due to Marlehead's clearing bank and Queen Street Trust, secured by charges on the company's assets, are about £500,000 and £650,000 respectively.

At this stage, a statement said, it is not possible to give an assessment of the net amount that will be realized from Marlehead's assets.

Talks start at Cohen Bros

The shares in Manchester-based Cohen Bros (Electrical) jumped by 9p to 49p yesterday valuing the company at £2m. The news was that a takeover bid could be on the way. An approach has been made to the main shareholders which may lead to a general offer to all shareholders, the board reported.

The talks are at an early stage and shareholders must not assume that an offer will be made. Because the chairman, Mr. I. Cohen, is abroad, no more news will take place until his return at the end of this month. Cohen Bros makes lamp posts and specializes in maintaining street lights.

Pearson Longman buys US group

Pearson Longman plans to buy Wadsworth Publishing of Belmont, California. A letter of intent has been signed by both parties and Pearson Longman, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Longman group, will buy Wadsworth for \$25 a share at a total price of \$131m.

Wadsworth is one of the most distinguished publishers of college text books in the United States. The acquisition of Wadsworth "represents a significant entry" for Longman into the United States market.

Recent Issues

South Africa 1977-78 (1977) 20p
South Africa 1978-79 (1978) 20p
South Africa 1979-80 (1979) 20p
South Africa 1980-81 (1980) 20p
South Africa 1981-82 (1981) 20p
South Africa 1982-83 (1982) 20p
South Africa 1983-84 (1983) 20p
South Africa 1984-85 (1984) 20p
South Africa 1985-86 (1985) 20p
South Africa 1986-87 (1986) 20p
South Africa 1987-88 (1987) 20p
South Africa 1988-89 (1988) 20p
South Africa 1989-90 (1989) 20p
South Africa 1990-91 (1990) 20p
South Africa 1991-92 (1991) 20p
South Africa 1992-93 (1992) 20p
South Africa 1993-94 (1993) 20p
South Africa 1994-95 (1994) 20p
South Africa 1995-96 (1995) 20p
South Africa 1996-97 (1996) 20p
South Africa 1997-98 (1997) 20p
South Africa 1998-99 (1998) 20p
South Africa 1999-00 (1999) 20p
South Africa 2000-01 (2000) 20p
South Africa 2001-02 (2001) 20p
South Africa 2002-03 (2002) 20p
South Africa 2003-04 (2003) 20p
South Africa 2004-05 (2004) 20p
South Africa 2005-06 (2005) 20p
South Africa 2006-07 (2006) 20p
South Africa 2007-08 (2007) 20p
South Africa 2008-09 (2008) 20p
South Africa 2009-10 (2009) 20p
South Africa 2010-11 (2010) 20p
South Africa 2011-12 (2011) 20p
South Africa 2012-13 (2012) 20p
South Africa 2013-14 (2013) 20p
South Africa 2014-15 (2014) 20p
South Africa 2015-16 (2015) 20p
South Africa 2016-17 (2016) 20p
South Africa 2017-18 (2017) 20p
South Africa 2018-19 (2018) 20p
South Africa 2019-20 (2019) 20p
South Africa 2020-21 (2020) 20p
South Africa 2021-22 (2021) 20p
South Africa 2022-23 (2022) 20p
South Africa 2023-24 (2023) 20p
South Africa 2024-25 (2024) 20p
South Africa 2025-26 (2025) 20p
South Africa 2026-27 (2026) 20p
South Africa 2027-28 (2027) 20p
South Africa 2028-29 (2028) 20p
South Africa 2029-30 (2029) 20p
South Africa 2030-31 (2030) 20p
South Africa 2031-32 (2031) 20p
South Africa 2032-33 (2032) 20p
South Africa 2033-34 (2033) 20p
South Africa 2034-35 (2034) 20p
South Africa 2035-36 (2035) 20p
South Africa 2036-37 (2036) 20p
South Africa 2037-38 (2037) 20p
South Africa 2038-39 (2038) 20p
South Africa 2039-40 (2039) 20p
South Africa 2040-41 (2040) 20p
South Africa 2041-42 (2041) 20p
South Africa 2042-43 (2042) 20p
South Africa 2043-44 (2043) 20p
South Africa 2044-45 (2044) 20p
South Africa 2045-46 (2045) 20p
South Africa 2046-47 (2046) 20p
South Africa 2047-48 (2047) 20p
South Africa 2048-49 (2048) 20p
South Africa 2049-50 (2049) 20p
South Africa 2050-51 (2050) 20p
South Africa 2051-52 (2051) 20p
South Africa 2052-53 (2052) 20p
South Africa 2053-54 (2053) 20p
South Africa 2054-55 (2054) 20p
South Africa 2055-56 (2055) 20p
South Africa 2056-57 (2056) 20p
South Africa 2057-58 (2057) 20p
South Africa 2058-59 (2058) 20p
South Africa 2059-60 (2059) 20p
South Africa 2060-61 (2060) 20p
South Africa 2061-62 (2061) 20p
South Africa 2062-63 (2062) 20p
South Africa 2063-64 (2063) 20p
South Africa 2064-65 (2064) 20p
South Africa 2065-66 (2065) 20p
South Africa 2066-67 (2066) 20p
South Africa 2067-68 (2067) 20p
South Africa 2068-69 (2068) 20p
South Africa 2069-70 (2069) 20p
South Africa 2070-71 (2070) 20p
South Africa 2071-72 (2071) 20p
South Africa 2072-73 (2072) 20p
South Africa 2073-74 (2073) 20p
South Africa 2074-75 (2074) 20p
South Africa 2075-76 (2075) 20p
South Africa 2076-77 (2076) 20p
South Africa 2077-78 (2077) 20p
South Africa 2078-79 (2078) 20p
South Africa 2079-80 (2079) 20p
South Africa 2080-81 (2080) 20p
South Africa 2081-82 (2081) 20p
South Africa 2082-83 (2082) 20p
South Africa 2083-84 (2083) 20p
South Africa 2084-85 (2084) 20p
South Africa 2085-86 (2085) 20p
South Africa 2086-87 (2086) 20p
South Africa 2087-88 (2087) 20p
South Africa 2088-89 (2088) 20p
South Africa 2089-90 (2089) 20p
South Africa 2090-91 (2090) 20p
South Africa 2091-92 (2091) 20p
South Africa 2092-93 (2092) 20p
South Africa 2093-94 (2093) 20p
South Africa 2094-95 (2094) 20p
South Africa 2095-96 (2095) 20p
South Africa 2096-97 (2096) 20p
South Africa 2097-98 (2097) 20p
South Africa 2098-99 (2098) 20p
South Africa 2099-00 (2099) 20p
South Africa 2100-01 (2100) 20p
South Africa 2101-02 (2101) 20p
South Africa 2102-03 (2102) 20p
South Africa 2103-04 (2103) 20p
South Africa 2104-05 (2104) 20p
South Africa 2105-06 (2105) 20p
South Africa 2106-07 (2106) 20p
South Africa 2107-08 (2107) 20p
South Africa 2108-09 (2108) 20p
South Africa 2109-10 (2109) 20p
South Africa 2110-11 (2110) 20p
South Africa 2111-12 (2111) 20p
South Africa 2112-13 (2112) 20p
South Africa 2113-14 (2113) 20p
South Africa 2114-15 (2114) 20p
South Africa 2115-16 (2115) 20p
South Africa 2116-17 (2116) 20p
South Africa 2117-18 (2117) 20p
South Africa 2118-19 (2118) 20p
South Africa 2119-20 (2119) 20p
South Africa 2120-21 (2120) 20p
South Africa 2121-22 (2121) 20p
South Africa 2122-23 (2122) 20p
South Africa 2123-24 (2123) 20p
South Africa 2124-25 (2124) 20p
South Africa 2125-26 (2125) 20p
South Africa 2126-27 (2126) 20p
South Africa 2127-28 (2127) 20p
South Africa 2128-29 (2128) 20p
South Africa 2129-30 (2129) 20p
South Africa 2130-31 (2130) 20p
South Africa 2131-32 (2131) 20p
South Africa 2132-33 (2132) 20p
South Africa 2133-34 (2133) 20p
South Africa 2134-35 (2134) 20p
South Africa 2135-36 (2135) 20p
South Africa 2136-37 (2136) 20p
South Africa 2137-38 (2137) 20p
South Africa 2138-39 (2138) 20p
South Africa 2139-40 (2139) 20p
South Africa 2140-41 (2140) 20p
South Africa 2141-42 (2141) 20p
South Africa 2142-43 (2142) 20p
South Africa 2143-44 (2143) 20p
South Africa 2144-45 (2144) 20p
South Africa 2145-46 (2145) 20p
South Africa 2146-47 (2146) 20p
South Africa 2147-48 (2147) 20p
South Africa 2148-49 (2148) 20p
South Africa 2149-50 (2149) 20p
South Africa 2150-51 (2150) 20p
South Africa 2151-52 (2151) 20p
South Africa 2152-53 (2152) 20p
South Africa 2153-54 (2153) 20p
South Africa 2154-55 (2154) 20p
South Africa 2155-56 (2155) 20p
South Africa 2156-57 (2156) 20p
South Africa 2157-58 (2157) 20p
South Africa 2158-59 (2158) 20p
South Africa 2159-60 (2159) 20p
South Africa 2160-61 (2160) 20p
South Africa 2161-62 (2161) 20p
South Africa 2162-63 (2162) 20p
South Africa 2163-64 (2163) 20p
South Africa 2164-65 (2164) 20p
South Africa 2165-66 (2165) 20p
South Africa 2166-67 (2166) 20p
South Africa 2167-68 (2167) 20p
South Africa 2168-69 (2168) 20p
South Africa 2169-70 (2169) 20p
South Africa 2170-71 (2170) 20p
South Africa 2171-72 (2171) 20p
South Africa 2172-73 (2172) 20p
South Africa 2173-74 (2173) 20p
South Africa 2174-75 (2174) 20p
South Africa 2175-76 (2175) 20p
South Africa 2176-77 (2176) 20p
South Africa 2177-78 (2177) 20p
South Africa 2178-79 (2178) 20p
South Africa 2179-80 (2179) 20p
South Africa 2180-81 (2180) 20p
South Africa 2181-82 (2181) 20p
South Africa 2182-83 (2182) 20p
South Africa 2183-84 (2183) 20p
South Africa 2184-85 (2184) 20p
South Africa 2185-86 (2185) 20p
South Africa 2186-87 (2186) 20p
South Africa 2187-88 (2187) 20p
South Africa 2188-89 (2188) 20p
South Africa 2189-90 (2189) 20p
South Africa 2190-91 (2190) 20p
South Africa 2191-92 (2191) 20p
South Africa 2192-93 (2192) 20p
South Africa 2193-94 (2193) 20p
South Africa 2194-95 (2194) 20p
South Africa 2195-96 (2195) 20p
South Africa 2196-97 (2196) 20p
South Africa 2197-98 (2197) 20p
South Africa 2198-99 (2198) 20p
South Africa 2199-00 (2199) 20p
South Africa 2200-01 (2200) 20p
South Africa 2201-02 (2201) 20p
South Africa 2202-03 (2202) 20p
South Africa 2203-04 (2203) 20p
South Africa 2204-05 (2204) 20p
South Africa 2205-06 (2205) 20p
South Africa 2206-07 (2206) 20p
South Africa 2207-08 (2207) 20p
South Africa 2208-09 (2208) 20p
South Africa 2209-10 (2209) 20p
South Africa 2210-11 (2210) 20p
South Africa 2211-12 (2211) 20p
South Africa 2212-13 (2212) 20p
South Africa 2213-14 (2213) 20p
South Africa 2214-15 (2214) 20p
South Africa 2215-16 (2215) 20p
South Africa 2216-17 (2216) 20p
South Africa 2217-18 (2217) 20p
South Africa 2218-19 (2218) 20p
South Africa 2219-20 (2219) 20p
South Africa 2220-21 (2220) 20p
South Africa 2221-22 (2221) 20p
South Africa 2222-23 (2222) 20p
South Africa 2223-24 (2223) 20p
South Africa 2224-25 (2224) 20p
South Africa 2225-26 (2225) 20p
South Africa 2226-27 (2226) 20p
South Africa 2227-28 (2227) 20p
South Africa 2228-29 (2228) 20p
South Africa 2229-30 (2229) 20p
South Africa 2230-31 (2230) 20p
South Africa 2231-32 (2231) 20p
South Africa 2232-33 (2232) 20p
South Africa 2233-34 (2233) 20p
South Africa 2234-35 (2234) 20p
South Africa 2235-36 (2235) 20p
South Africa 2236-37 (2236) 20p
South Africa 2237-38 (2237) 20p
South Africa 2238-39 (2238) 20p
South Africa 2239-40 (2239) 20p
South Africa 2240-41 (2240) 20p
South Africa 2241-42 (2241) 20p
South Africa 2242-43 (2242) 20p
South Africa 2243-44 (2243) 20p
South Africa 2244-45 (2244) 20p
South Africa 2245-46 (2245) 20p
South Africa 2246-47 (2246) 20p
South Africa 2247-48 (2247) 20p
South Africa 2248-49 (2248) 20p
South Africa 2249-50 (2249) 20p
South Africa 2250-51 (2250) 20p
South Africa 2251-52 (2251) 20p
South Africa 2252-53 (2252) 20p
South Africa 2253-54 (2253) 20p
South Africa 2254-55 (2254) 20p
South Africa 2255-56 (2255) 20p
South Africa 2256-57 (2256) 20p
South Africa 2257-58 (2257) 20p
South Africa 2258-59 (2258) 20p
South Africa 2259-60 (2259) 20p
South Africa 2260-61 (2260) 20p
South Africa 2261-62 (2261) 20p
South Africa 2262-63 (2262) 20p
South Africa 2263-64 (2263) 20p
South Africa 2264-65 (2264) 20p
South Africa 2265-66 (2265) 20p
South Africa 2266-67 (2266) 20p
South Africa 2267-68 (2267) 20p
South Africa 2268-69 (2268) 20p
South Africa 2269-70 (2269) 20p
South Africa 2270-71 (2270) 20p
South Africa 2271-72 (2271) 20p
South Africa 2272-73 (2272) 20p
South Africa 2273-74 (2273) 20p
South Africa 2274-75 (2274) 20p
South Africa 2275-76 (2275) 20p
South Africa 2276-77 (2276) 20p
South Africa 2277-78 (2277) 20p
South Africa 2278-79 (2278) 20p
South Africa 2279-80 (2279) 20p
South Africa 2280-81 (2280) 20p
South Africa 2281-82 (2281) 20p
South Africa 2282-83 (2282) 20p
South Africa 2283-84 (2283) 20p
South Africa 2284-85 (2284) 20p
South Africa 2285-86 (2285) 20p
South Africa 2286-87 (2286) 20p
South Africa 2287-88 (2287) 20p
South Africa 2288-89 (2288) 20p
South Africa 2289-90 (2289) 20p
South Africa 2290-91 (2290) 20p
South Africa 2291-92 (2291) 20p
South Africa 2292-93 (2292) 20p
South Africa 2293-94 (2293) 20p
South Africa 2294-95 (2294) 20p
South Africa 2295-96 (2295) 20p
South Africa 2296-97 (2296) 20p
South Africa 2297-98 (2297) 20p
South Africa 2298-99 (2298) 20p
South Africa 2299-00 (2299) 20p
South Africa 2300-01 (2300) 20p
South Africa 2301-02 (2301) 20p
South Africa 2302-03 (2302) 20p
South Africa 2303-04 (2303) 20p
South Africa 2304-05 (2304) 20p
South Africa 2305-06 (2305) 20p
South Africa 2306-07 (2306) 20p
South Africa 2307-08 (2307) 20p
South Africa 2308-09 (2308) 20p
South Africa 2309-10 (2309) 20p
South Africa 2310-11 (2310) 20p
South Africa 2311-12 (2311) 20p
South Africa 2312-13 (2312) 20p
South Africa 2313-14 (2313) 20p
South Africa 2314-15 (2314) 20p
South Africa 2315-16 (2315) 20p
South Africa 2316-17 (2316) 20p
South Africa 2317-18 (2317) 20p
South Africa 2318-19 (2318) 20p
South Africa 2319-20 (2319) 20p
South Africa 2320-21 (2320) 20p
South Africa 2321-22 (2321) 20p
South Africa 2322-23 (2322) 20p
South Africa 2323-24 (2323) 20p
South Africa 2324-25 (2324) 20p
South Africa 2325-26 (2325) 20p
South Africa 2326-27 (2326) 20p
South Africa 2327-28 (2327) 20p
South Africa 2328-29 (2328) 20p
South Africa 2329-30 (2329) 20p
South Africa 2330-31 (2330) 20p
South Africa 2331-32 (2331) 20p
South Africa 2332-33 (2332) 20p
South Africa 2333-34 (2333) 20p
South Africa 2334-35 (2334) 20p
South Africa 2335-36 (2335) 20p
South Africa 2336-37 (2336) 20p
South Africa 2337-38 (2337) 20p
South Africa 2338-39 (2338) 20p
South Africa 2339-40 (2339) 20p
South Africa 2340-41 (2340) 20p
South Africa 2341-42 (2341) 20p
South Africa 2342-43 (2342) 20p
South Africa 2343-44 (2343) 20p
South Africa 2344-45 (2344) 20p
South Africa 2345-46 (2345) 20p
South Africa 2346-47 (2346) 20p
South Africa 2347-48 (2347) 20p
South Africa 2348-49 (2348) 20p
South Africa 2349-50 (2349) 20p
South Africa 2350-51 (2350) 20p
South Africa 2351-52 (2351) 20p
South Africa 2352-53 (2352) 20p
South Africa 2353-54 (2353) 20p
South Africa 2354-55 (2354) 20p
South Africa 2355-56 (2355) 20p
South Africa 2356-57 (2356) 20p
South Africa 2357-58 (2357) 20p
South Africa 2358-59 (2358) 20p
South Africa 2359-60 (2359) 20p
South Africa 2360-61 (2360) 20p
South Africa 2361-62 (2361) 20p
South Africa 2362-63 (2362) 20p
South Africa 2363-64 (2363) 20p
South Africa 2364-65 (2364) 20p
South Africa 2365-66 (2365) 20p
South Africa 2366-67 (2366) 20p
South Africa 2367-68 (2367) 20p
South Africa 2368-69 (2368) 20p
South Africa 2369-70 (2369) 20p
South Africa 2370-71 (2370) 20p
South Africa 2371-72 (2371) 20p
South Africa 2372-73 (2372) 20p
South Africa 2373-74 (2373) 20p
South Africa 2374-75 (2374) 20p
South Africa 2375-76 (2375) 20p
South Africa 2376-77 (2376) 20p
South Africa 2377-78 (2377) 20p
South Africa 2378-79 (2378) 20p
South Africa 2379-80 (2379) 20p
South Africa 2380-81 (2380) 20p
South Africa 2381-82 (2381) 20p
South Africa 2382-83 (2382) 20p
South Africa 2383-84 (2383) 20p
South Africa 2384-85 (2384) 20p
South Africa 2385-86 (2385) 20p
South Africa 2386-87 (2386) 20p
South Africa 2387-88 (2387) 20p
South Africa 2388-89 (2388) 20p
South Africa 2389-90 (2389) 20p
South Africa 2390-91 (2390) 20p
South Africa 2391-92 (2391) 20p
South Africa 2392-93 (2392) 20p
South Africa 2393-94 (2393) 20p
South Africa 2394-95 (2394) 20p
South Africa 2395-96 (2395) 20p
South Africa 2396-97 (2396) 20p
South Africa 2397-98 (2397) 20p
South Africa 2398-99 (2398) 20p
South Africa 2399-00 (2399) 20p
South Africa 2400-01 (2400) 20p
South Africa 2401-02 (2401) 20p
South Africa 2402-03 (2402) 20p
South Africa 2403-04 (2403) 20p
South Africa 2404-05 (2404) 20p
South Africa 2405-06 (2405) 20p
South Africa 2406-07 (2406) 20p
South Africa 2407-08 (2407) 20p
South Africa 2408-09 (2408) 20p
South Africa 2409-10 (2409) 20p
South Africa 2410-11 (2410) 20p
South Africa 2411-12 (2411) 20p
South Africa 2412-13 (2412) 20p
South Africa 2413-14 (2413) 20p
South Africa 2414-15 (2414) 20p
South Africa 2415-16 (2415) 20p
South Africa 2416-17 (2416) 20p
South Africa 2417-18 (2417) 20p
South Africa 2418-19 (2418) 20p
South Africa 2419-20 (2419) 20p
South Africa 2420-21 (2420) 20p
South Africa 2421-22 (2421) 20p
South Africa 2422-23 (2422) 20p
South Africa 2423-24 (2423) 20p
South Africa 2424-25 (2424) 20p
South Africa 2425-26 (2425) 20p
South Africa 2426-27 (2426) 20p
South Africa 2427-28 (2427) 20p
South Africa 2428-29 (2428) 20p
South Africa 2429-30 (2429) 20p
South Africa 2430-31 (2430) 20p
South Africa 2431-32 (2431) 20p
South Africa 2432-33 (2432) 20p
South Africa 2433-34 (2433) 20p
South Africa 2434-35 (2434) 20p
South Africa 2435-36 (2435) 20p
South Africa 2436-37 (2436) 20p
South Africa 2437-38 (2437) 20p
South Africa 2438-39 (2438) 20p
South Africa 2439-40 (2439) 20p
South Africa 2440-41 (2440) 20p
South Africa 2441-42 (2441) 20p
South Africa 2442-43 (2442) 20p
South Africa 2443-44 (2443) 20p
South Africa 2444-45 (2444) 20p
South Africa 2445-46 (2445) 20p
South Africa 2446-47 (2446) 20p
South Africa 2447-48 (2447) 20p
South Africa 2448-49 (2448) 20p
South Africa 2449-50 (2449) 20p
South Africa 2450-51 (2450) 20p
South Africa 2451-52 (2451) 20p
South Africa 2452-53 (2452) 20p
South Africa 2453-54 (2453) 20p
South Africa 2454-55 (2454) 20p
South Africa 2455-56 (2455) 20p
South Africa 2456-57 (2456) 20p
South Africa 2457-58 (2457) 20p
South Africa 2458-59 (2458) 20p
South Africa 2459-60 (2459) 20p
South Africa 2460-61 (2460) 20p
South Africa 2461-62 (2461) 20p
South Africa 2462-63 (2462) 20p
South Africa 2463-64 (2463) 20p
South Africa 2464-65 (2464) 20p
South Africa 2465-66 (2465) 20p
South Africa 2466-67 (2466) 20p
South Africa 2467-68 (2467) 20p
South Africa 2468-69 (2468) 20p
South Africa 2469-70 (2469) 20p
South Africa 2470-71 (2470) 20p
South Africa 2471-72 (2471) 20p
South Africa 2472-73 (2472) 20p
South Africa 2473-74 (2473) 20p
South Africa 2474-75 (2474) 20p
South Africa 2475-76 (2475) 20p
South Africa 2476-77 (2476) 20p
South Africa 2477-78 (2477) 20p
South Africa 2478-79 (2478) 20p
South Africa 2479-80 (2479) 20p
South Africa 2480-81 (2480) 20p
South Africa 2481-82 (2481) 20p
South Africa 2482-83 (2482) 20p
South Africa 2483-84 (2483) 20p
South Africa 2484-85 (2484) 20p
South Africa 2485-86 (2485) 20p
South Africa 2486-87 (2486) 20p
South Africa 2487-88 (2487) 20p
South Africa 2488-89 (2488) 20p
South Africa 2489-90 (2489) 20p
South Africa 2490-91 (2490) 20p
South Africa 2491-92 (2491) 20p
South Africa 2492-93 (2492) 20p
South Africa 2493-94 (2493) 20p
South Africa 2494-95 (2494) 20p
South Africa

Stock Exchange Prices

Insurances retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Weatherall Green & Smith
Chartered Surveyors - Estate Agents
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

1977			1976			1975			1974			1973			1972			1971			1970			1969			1968			1967			1966			1965			1964			1963			1962			1961			1960			1959			1958			1957			1956			1955			1954			1953			1952			1951			1950			1949			1948			1947			1946			1945			1944			1943			1942			1941			1940			1939			1938			1937			1936			1935			1934			1933			1932			1931			1930			1929			1928			1927			1926			1925			1924			1923			1922			1921			1920			1919			1918			1917			1916			1915			1914			1913			1912			1911			1910			1909			1908			1907			1906			1905			1904			1903			1902			1901			1900			1899			1898			1897			1896			1895			1894			1893			1892			1891			1890			1889			1888			1887			1886			1885			1884			1883			1882			1881			1880			1879			1878			1877			1876			1875			1874			1873			1872			1871			1870			1869			1868			1867			1866			1865			1864			1863			1862			1861			1860			1859			1858			1857			1856			1855			1854			1853			1852			1851			1850			1849			1848			1847			1846			1845			1844			1843			1842			1841			1840			1839			1838			1837			1836			1835			1834			1833			1832			1831			1830			1829			1828			1827			1826			1825			1824			1823			1822			1821			1820			1819			1818			1817			1816			1815			1814			1813			1812			1811			1810			1809			1808			1807			1806			1805			1804			1803			1802			1801			1800			1799			1798			1797			1796			1795			1794			1793			1792			1791			1790			1789			1788			1787			1786			1785			1784			1783			1782			1781			1780			1779			1778			1777			1776			1775			1774			1773			1772			1771			1770			1769			1768			1767			1766			1765			1764			1763			1762			1761			1760			1759			1758			1757			1756			1755			1754			1753			1752			1751			1750			1749			1748			1747			1746			1745			1744			1743			1742			1741			1740			1739			1738			1737			1736			1735			1734			1733			1732			1731			1730			1729			1728			1727			1726			1725			1724			1723			1722			1721			1720			1719			1718			1717			1716			1715			1714			1713			1712			1711			1710			1709			1708			1707			1706			1705			1704			1703			1702			1701			1700			1699			1698			1697			1696			1695			1694			1693			1692			1691			1690			1689			1688			1687			1686			1685			1684			1683			1682			1681			1680			1679			1678			1677			1676			1675			1674			1673			1672			1671			1670			1669			1668			1667			1666			1665			1664			1663			1662			1661			1660			1659			1658			1657			1656			1655			1654			1653			1652			1651			1650			1649			1648			1647			1646			1645			1644			1643			1642			1641			1640			1639			1638			1637			1636			1635			1634			1633			1632			1631			1630			1629			1628			1627			1626			1625			1624			1623			1622			1621			1620			1619			1618			1617			1616			1615			1614			1613			1612			1611			1610			1609			1608			1607			1606			1605			1604			1603			1602			1601			1600			1599			1598			1597			1596			1595			1594			1593			1592			1591			1590			1589			1588			1587			1586			1585			1584			1583			1582			1581			1580			1579			1578			1577			1576			1575			1574			1573			1572			1571			1570			1569			1568			1567			1566			1565			1564			1563			1562			1561			1560			1559			1558			1557			1556			1555			1554			1553			1552			1551			1550			1549			1548			1547			1546			1545			1544			1543			1542			1541			1540			1539			1538			1537			1536			1535			1534			1533			1532			1531			1530			1529			1528			1527			1526			1525			1524			1523			1522			1521			1520			1519			1518			1517			1516			1515			1514			1513			1512			1511			1510			1509			1508			1507			1506			1505			1504			1503			1502			1501			1500			1499			1498			1497			1496			1495			1494			1493			1492			1491			1490			1489			1488			1487			1486			1485			1484			1483			1482			1481			1480			1479			1478			1477			1476			1475			1474			1473			1472			1471			1470			1469			1468			1467			1466			1465			1464			1463			1462			1461			1460			1459			1458			1457			1456			1455			1454			1453			1452			1451			1450			1449			1448			1447			1446			1445			1444			1443			1442			1441			1440			1439			1438			1437			1436			1435			1434			1433			1432			1431			1430			1429			1428			1427			1426			1425			1424			1423			1422			1421			1420			1419			1418			1417			1416			1415			1414			1413			1412			1411			1410			1409			1408			1407			1406			1405			1404			1403			1402			1401			1400			1399			1398			1397			1396			1395			1394			1393			1392			1391			1390			1389			1388			1387			1386			1385			1384			1383			1382			1381			1380			1379			1378			1377			1376			1375			1374			1373			1372			1371			1370			1369			1368			1367			1366			1365			1364			1363			1362			1361			1360			1359			1358			1357			1356			1355			1354			1353			1352			1351			1350			1349			1348			1347			1346			1345			1344			1343			1342			1341			1340			1339			1338			1337			1336			1335			1334			1333			1332			1331			1330			1329			1328			1327			1326			1325			1324			1323			1322			1321			1320			1319			1318			1317			1316			1315			1314			1313			1312			1311			1310			1309			1308			1307			1306			1305			1304			1303			1302			1301			1300			1299		
------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--	------	--	--

